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THE

History of Wales.

WRITTEN ORIGINALLY IN BRITISH BY CARADOC OF LLANCARVAN;

TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH BY DR. POWELL;

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AUGMENTED

BY W. WYNNE, FELLOW OF JESUS COLLEGE, OXON.;

REVISED AND CORRECTED, AND A COLLECTION OF

TOPOGRAPHICAL NOTICES

ATTACHED THERETO,

BY RICHARD LLWYD, GENT.

OF LLANNERCH-BROCHWEL, IN THE COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY.

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ADVERTISEMENT.

The late Mr. Richard Llwyd, *when he revised Mr.* Wynne's *History, and compiled the Topographical Notices which are now appended thereto, had also an intention of entering at some length into the Biography of Owen Glyndwr, and of giving a sketch of the ancient Laws, Customs, and Amusements of Wales. The publication, however, of Mr. Thomas's* Life of Glyndwr, *and the appearance of several excellent essays, &c. in the* Cambro-Briton *and various periodical works on the other subjects alluded to, having rendered it unnecessary to re-state that which had been so recently brought before the public, he, in the present volume, confined himself to the republication of the History of Wales, as given by Mr.* Wynne, *contenting himself with modernising the language, supplying notes of reference, and occasionally introducing notes explanatory or corrective of Mr.* Wynne's *text. To this revised edition of the History, he added a selection of Topographical Notices relative to the several Counties, which, while they are calculated to amuse and inform the reader, will also be found to throw much additional light on the history and manners of the Cambro-Britons of former days, and give at the same time a tolerably correct view of the present state of the Principality. To enable him to make these notices more copious, and to do so without augmenting unnecessarily the price of the work, Mr.* Llwyd *omitted some appendages formerly attached to Mr. Wynne's History, but which, while they were in themselves of a nature to be of little interest at any period, have now, by reason of the facts therein referred to having been of late years much more clearly elucidated by writers in publications of very general circulation, become obsolete and disregarded. It is, therefore, hoped, that the present edition of the* History and Description of Wales *will be favourably received; and that the good intentions of its deceased compiler will be accepted as an apology for any errors or omissions that may be discovered by the historian, the antiquarian, or the topographer.*

January, 1832.

THE

HISTORY OF WALES.

WHEN the Roman empire, under Valentinian the younger, began to decline, and became sensibly unable to repress the perpetual incursions of the Goths, Huns, Vandals, and other barbarous invaders, it was found necessary to abandon the remotest parts of that unwieldy body, and to recal the Roman forces that defended them, the better to secure the interior and the provinces most exposed to the depredations of the barbarians. And in this exigency of the Roman affairs, Britain, as lying far remote from the heart of the empire, was deprived of the Roman garrisons; which, being transported into Gaul upon more urgent occasions, left it naked and exposed to the inveterate cruelty of the Scots and Picts: for no sooner had they understood of the departure of the Romans out of Britain, and that the Britons were to expect no further help from the empire, but they descended in greater numbers than formerly, and with greater courage and expectation, being now rid of the fear they entertained of the Roman legions, who always used to hinder their progress and to prevent their incursions into the Roman province. The Britons, perceiving their ancient and implacable enemies falling upon them, and finding themselves far too weak to repel their endless devastations, they, with a lamentable narrative of their own miseries and the cruel oppressions of their enemies, sent over to Gaul, imploring aid of Ætius, prefect of that province; who, being moved with the deplorable condition of their province, despatched over a legion under the command of Gallio, which unexpectedly surprising the Scots and Picts, forced them, with great loss and destruction, to retire over the seas or friths to their own habitations. Then, helping the Britons to build a wall of stone across the

the land, for a bulwark against any future irruptions, the Romans at their departure told them they could not any more undertake such dangerous expeditions for their defence, and therefore admonished them to take arms, and like men vindicate their country, their wives, children, and liberties, from the injuries of their barbarous enemies.

But as soon as the Roman legion was transported into Gaul, the Picts and Scots returned, and having by a desperate assault passed the wall, pursued the Britons with a more dreadful and bloody slaughter than formerly. The Britons, perceiving their condition most desperate, once more sent their miserable complaints to Ætius, in these tragical words: "*To Ætius, thrice consul, the groans of the Britons: the barbarians drive us to the sea, and the sea drives us back to them, and so, distracted betwixt two deaths, we are either drowned or perish by the sword.** But they solicited to no purpose: the Romans having already bid absolutely farewell to Britain, and the empire being cruelly oppressed by the Goths and other barbarous nations, they were not in a condition possibly to assist them. The Britons, therefore, finding themselves absolutely forsaken by the Romans, and conceiving it utterly impracticable to drive away the barbarians by their own strength, saw it urgently necessary to call in the aid of some foreign nation, whose labour in repelling their enemies should be gratefully and satisfactorily rewarded.

The reason that the British nation was at this time so weak and impotent, and so manifestly unable to withstand these barbarous enemies, who were far inferior as to extent of country, and probably in number of people, may in great measure be attributed to the ease and quietness the Britons enjoyed under the Roman government. For whilst the Roman legions continued in Britain, they ever undertook the security and preservation of it; so that the Britons heretofore were little concerned at the incursions of the Scots and Picts, depending wholly upon the strength and valour of the Romans, insomuch that, within a while, they fell into a fit of luxury and effeminacy, and quickly forgot that martial prowess and military conduct which their ancestors so famously excelled in. For, after their entire subjection to the Romans, they had little or no opportunity to exercise their valour, excepting in some home-bred commotions excited by the aspiring ambition of some mal-contented general, which were quickly composed and reduced to nothing. And after the Scots and Picts grew formidable, and

* Bede, lib. 1, cap. xiii. p. 51.—Gildas, cap. xvii.—Giraldus Cambrensis, lib. 7, p. 42.

and durst venture to make incursions into the Roman province, the Britons were the least concerned in opposing them, leaving that to the care and vigilancy of the Roman garrisons. And this easiness and supineness of the Britons may not be untruly attributed to the policy of the Roman constitution; for when the Britons were brought subject to the empire, the first thing the Romans effected towards the confirmation of their obedience was to take the sword out of their hands. They were sensible how bold and valorous the Britons naturally were—how unlikely to submit their necks to a foreign yoke; and therefore they found it impracticable to obtain a quiet possession of this province, as long as the Britons had power and opportunity to oppose them. This course, therefore, they found very effectual, and when they had once lulled them asleep, they were not oversolicitous to rouse and awaken them.

The Britons also might possibly be too much taken with this sedentary and inactive life; and as long as they lived secure under the protection of the Roman empire, they little feared their country would become a prey to any barbarous nation. No one would have imagined that that glorious empire would be so soon crushed to pieces, which could not otherwise be effected than by the insupportable pressure of its own weight. The apprehension of the greatness and strength of the Romans made the Britons probably less solicitous of enabling themselves to defend their country, not thinking they would ever forsake and relinquish the province of Britain: but to their sorrow they experienced the contrary, the affairs of the empire elsewhere requiring the help of the British legions, so that they were left exposed to the cruelties of the northern invaders, having not as yet recovered any power or conduct to oppose them. For had not the Scots and Picts come on so forcibly at first, but had given time to the Britons to shake off the lethargy they had for many years been buried in, and to renew their ancient discipline and vigour, there had been no need of calling in the Saxons, seeing they would in all probability have been able to maintain their ground against any opposition, and very likely would have been in possession of their whole country to this time. But, next to the decree of heaven, the ruin of the British nation must be attributed to its too much luxury and effeminacy, and to the universal lapse of the nobility and people into an aversion of all military action and martial discipline. For though a continued peace be in itself desirable, yet oftentimes nothing tends

tends more to the future ruin and downfall of a nation. For peace begets in men generally a habit of looseness and debauchery, and is the occasion of many notorious extravagancies and vicious practices, which weaken their hands and cool their courage and greatness of mind, so that in case of any open danger they are incapable of defending their country, and unfit to oppose the common enemy. Scarce any kingdom or nation was subverted, but the ruin of it was ushered in by these means: witness the Assyrian under Sardanapalus, the Persian under Darius, and the Egyptian under Cleopatra; so that it was most prudently urged by a Roman senator that Carthage might not be demolished, lest that, for want of an enemy abroad, the valour of the Romans might degenerate, and their conduct be forgotten. Had the Britons had the fortune to be continually in action, and not exchanged their courage and discipline for ease and laziness, they would have had no reason to dread the incursions of the Scots and Picts, nor any need of the aid and assistance of a foreign nation; but the condition of their affairs then required it, and help must be had, or else their country must unavoidably become a prey to those northern invaders.

To prevent, therefore, and repel their violence, King Vortigern held a council of his great men and nobles, at which it was concluded to be most advantageous to the Britons to invite the Saxons out of Germany to their aid, who, in all probability, would gladly embrace the opportunity, by reason that their own country was grown too scanty for their superfluous numbers. This message of the Britons, however originally delivered, is by an ancient Saxon writer repeated in this manner:—"*Most noble Saxons, the miserable Britons, shattered and quite worn out by the frequent incursions of their enemies, upon the news of your many signal victories, have sent us to you, humbly requesting that you would assist them at this juncture. A land large and spacious, abounding with all manner of necessaries, they give up entirely to your disposal. Hitherto we have lived happily under the government and protection of the Romans. Next to the Romans we know none of greater valour than yourselves, and therefore in your arms do now seek refuge. Let but that courage and those arms make us conquerors, and we shall refuse no service you shall please to impose.*" To this message the Saxons returned this short answer:—"*Assure yourselves the Saxons will be true friends to the Britons, and as such shall be always ready both to relieve their necessities and to advance their interest.*"

The

The Saxons being thus happily courted to what themselves had a thousand times wished for, arrived soon after in Britain, in three gallies, called in their own language Kiules, under the conduct of two brethren, Hengist and Horsa.* Being honourably received by the king, and affectionately treated by the people, their faith was given on both sides; the Saxons stipulating to defend the country of the Britons, and the Britons to give the Saxons a satisfactory reward for all the pains and dangers they should undergo upon their account. At first the Saxons shewed themselves very diligent in their employment, and successfully repelled the Scots and Picts, who, being probably ignorant of the landing of the Saxons, and fearing no opposition, boldly advanced to the heart of the country. But when the Saxons became better acquainted with the island, and happily discovered the weakness and inability of the Britons, under pretence that their pay was not answerable to their service and deserts, they quarrelled with the Britons, and, instead of supporting them according to oath, entered into a league with their enemies the Scots. Moreover, Hengist, perceiving with whom he had to do, sent over to acquaint his countrymen with the beauty and fertility of the island, and the infirmity and effeminacy of the inhabitants; inviting them to be sharers of his future success and expectations. With his invitation they readily complied, and sailing over in great numbers they thought to take possession of that country, which fortune promised should be their own: but they found that they must fight for it first; the Britons having resolved to defend themselves and their country to the last against these treacherous practices of the Saxons, and, if possible, to drive them to their primitive habitations. For when the Britons became sensible of the undermining aim of the Saxons, how they secretly endeavoured the total extirpation of the British nation, they presently betook themselves to their swords, and in a short time became signally famous for their valour and conduct. This the Saxons afterwards grievously felt, though the total recovery of Britain proved impracticable for want of power; the

* These were princes of great distinction. They were the descendants of Woden, the founder of the nation, and regarded by the Saxons as the deity who presided in war, agreeably to the custom of the early ages, of paying divine honours to any distinguished individual who had been the instrument of glory or of utility to his country. From Woden is derived *Wednesday*, being the day dedicated to the honour of that Saxon deity: *Friday*, likewise, is derived from the Saxon goddess Fria, being the day dedicated to her worship. And in the same manner every other day in the week has taken its derivation from the Saxon deities.—See Verstegan, cap. iii. p. 69, 77. Bede, lib. 1, cap. xv. p. 53.

the Saxons having, by massacres and other treacherous means, most unmercifully lessened the force and number of the Britons. King Vortigern loved his ease too well to observe their practices, and besides became so foolishly enamoured with the daughter of Hengist, who purposely was laid to entrap him, that the Saxons upon the strength of this marriage began to carve for themselves, and during Vortigern's reign* laid so firm a foundation for the Saxon conquest, that the succeeding British kings, though famously valiant, could never undermine it. The sottishness of his father young Vortimer could not at length endure, nor to see himself and his country so openly and shamefully imposed upon by strangers, and therefore he resolved to take the British government upon himself, and to endeavour the universal expulsion of the Saxons. With him the British nobility willingly joined, and after several famous victories over the Saxons he was unhappily poisoned by a Saxon lady. After his death the Britons bravely defended themselves against the prevailing greatness of the Saxons, under those valiant princes, Aurelius Ambrosius, Uther Pendragon, Arthur, Constantine II. Aurelius Conanus, Vortiper, and Maelgwyn. To him succeeded Careticus; in whose time the Saxons, aspiring to a total conquest of Britain, invited over one Gurmundus, a Norwegian pirate, who had lately signalized himself in Ireland, and obtained a conquest over that kingdom. Him they employed to march against Careticus, who being overcome and vanquished by him, the Britons were forced some to retire beyond the rivers Severn and Dee, some to Cornwall, and the rest to Little Britain (or Britanny), in France. The British affairs were now brought very low, and their government reduced within a very narrow compass; so that the title of the Kings of Britain can be but superficially attributed to the succeeding princes, Cadwan, Cadwallon, and Cadwalader.

CADWALADER.

* Fabian, p. 79.

This prince had by his first wife three sons, Vortimer, Catigern, and Pascens; and he had one son named Faustus, it is said, by his own daughter.

CADWALADER.

CADWALADER, surnamed Vendiged, or the Blessed, was the last of British race that enjoyed the title of King of Britain; after him, the Welsh, who were the most numerous remains of the Britons, disdaining to own any subjection to the oppressing Saxons, set up a new government among themselves, and altered the style of British Kings to that of Princes of Wales. But whilst Cadwalader ruled in Britain, a severe famine, attended with a raging pestilence, which assuredly sprung from the continued war which was so eagerly carried on betwixt the Britons and Saxons, happened in the island, and occasioned a most lamentable mortality among his subjects; insomuch that he was compelled, together with a great number of his nobility and others, to retire for refuge to his cousin Alan, King of Lydaw, or Little Britain in France. There he met with all civility suitable to his quality and condition, as well because of his own near relation and consanguinity to Alan,* as upon the account that their subjects were originally one and the same people: for the inhabitants of Little Britain, about the year of Christ 384, went over out of this island, under the command of Conan, Lord of Meriadoc, to the aid of Maximus the Tyrant, against the Emperor Gratianus. For this service Maximus granted to Conan and his followers the country of Armorica, where the Britons, having driven out the former inhabitants, seated themselves, and erected a kingdom, which lasted for many years under several kings, whose names and succession are as follow:—

A.D. 676.

A D. 679.

LIST OF THE ARMORICAN KINGS.

1. Conan Meriadoc.
2. Gradlonus.
3. Salomon I.
4. Auldranus.
5. Budicus I.
6. Howelus Magnus.
7. Howelus II.
8. Alanus I.
9. Howelus III.
10. Gilquellus.
11. Salomon II.
12. Alanus II.
13. Conobertus.
14. Budicus II.
15. Theordoricus.
16. Ruhalhonus.
17. Daniel Dremrost, *i. e.* rubicunda facie.
18. Aregstanus.
19. Maconus.
20. Neomenius.
21. Haruspogius.
22. Salomon III.

Alan

* Baker's Chron. p. 4.—J. Fordun's Hist. Scot.—Gale's Scriptor. p. 647.

Alan II. reigned in Little Britain, when Cadwalader was forced to forsake his own dominions, and retire beyond the seas. He was descended from Rûn, the son of Maelgwyn Gwynedd, King of Great Britain, by a daughter married to Howel the Second, King of Little Britain. This kingdom remained firm till Salomon III. was treacherously slain by his own subjects; upon which unhappy occurrence, the kingdom was converted to an earldom, whereof one Alan was the first, a valiant and warlike prince, who stoutly resisted the Normans, and frequently vanquished and overcame them.

But after Cadwalader had continued some time with Alan, the plague being abated in Britain, he purposed to return, and, if possible, to recover that part of his kingdom which the Saxons were now in possession of.* He received frequent intelligence of their number and increase, how they fairly bid for the conquest of that country which had been governed by British kings for the space of 1827 years. This troubled him exceedingly, and though he had little hope of prevailing by the strength and number of his forces, yet he made the best preparation that the opportunity would permit, and despatched his fleet for the transportation of his army, which consisted partly of his own subjects, and partly of such succours as he received from Alan. Whilst he vigorously prosecuted this design, and was ready to strike sail for Britain, his voyage was, it is said, prevented by a message from heaven, which counselled him to lay aside the thoughts of recovering his kingdom, because it was already decreed above that the Britons should no longer enjoy the government of Britain, until the prophecy of Merlin Ambrosius was fulfilled. And instead of a voyage to Britain, he was ordered to take his journey to Rome, where he should receive holy orders at the hands of Pope Sergius, and instead of recovering the British crown, have his own crown shaved off, and be initiated into the order of the monks. Whether this vision was signified to him in a dream, or by the impositious illusions of some wicked spirit; or whether it may be a fantastical conceit of his own, being a man of a mild and easy temper, wearied with troubles and miseries, is very dubious: but this is certain, that he never returned again to Britain, after he had gone over to Alan. Cadwalader had no sooner received this vision, but immediately he relates the whole to his friend Alan, who presently consulted all

* Baker's Chron. p. 4.—Welsh Chron. by Caradoc of Llancarvan, re-published by Dr. Powel, p. 3.

all his prophetical books, chiefly the famous works of the two Merlins, Ambrosius and Sylvestris: the first is said to have been begotten on a spirit, and born in the town of Carmarthen, whence he received the name of Merlin, and to have flourished in the reign of King Vortigern. The latter, called Caledonius, from the forest Caledon in Scotland, and Sylvestris or Merlin Wyllt, because he fell mad and lived desolately after he had seen a monstrous shape in the air, prophesied in the time of King Arthur, and far more full and intelligible than the former. Both these were in great reverence and reputation among the Britons, and their works very rigorously preserved, and upon any considerable occasion most reverently consulted. They were of opinion that nothing could escape their knowledge; and that no accident of moment or revolution could happen which they did not foretel, and which was not to be discovered in their writings. In the consultation therefore of their prophecies, and the words which an eagle is said to have spoken at the building of Caer Septon, now Shaftesbury, namely, that the Britons must lose the government of Britain till the bones of King Cadwalader were brought back from Rome, Alan found out that the time was now come when these prophesies were to be accomplished, and Britons forced to quit their native inheritance to strangers and invaders. Upon this he advised Cadwalader to obey the commands and follow the counsel of the vision, and to hasten his journey for Rome. This he was willing to submit to, being desirous to spend the remainder of his days in peace and quietness, which before he had no opportunity to enjoy. To Rome therefore he hastened, where he was kindly received by Pope Sergius: and, after eight years spent there in piety and devotion, he died in the year 688, and with him the kingdom and total government of the Britons over this island.

King Cadwalader is said to have been a considerable benefactor to the Abbey of Clynnoc Vawr in Arvon, upon which he bestowed the Lordship of Grayanoc. This place was primarily founded by St. Beuno, to whom it is dedicated, who was the son of Hywgi ap Gwynlliw ap Glywis ap Tegid ap Cadell, a Prince or Lord of Glewisig, brother's son to St. Cadoc ap Gwynlliw, sometime Bishop of Beneventum, in Italy. He was by the mother's side cousin-german to Laudatus, the first Abbot of Enlli, or the island of Bardsey, and to Kentigern, Bishop of Glasgow, in Scotland, and of Llanelwy, or St. Asaph, in Wales; which last was son to Owen, a Prince of Scotland, and grandson to Urien Reged, King of Cumbria. The building of a monastery

monastery at Clynnoc happened on this occasion: Beuno having raised to life, as the tradition goes, St. Winifred, who was beheaded by one Caradoc, a lord in North Wales, upon the account that she would not yield to his unchaste desires, became in very great esteem with King Cadvan, who bestowed upon him certain lands whereon to build a monastery. Cadwallon also, Cadvan's son, gave him the lands of Gwaredoc, where beginning to build a church, a certain woman with a child in her arms prevented his further progress, assuring him that those lands were the proper inheritance of that child. Beuno was so exceedingly troubled at this, that without any more consideration on the matter, taking the woman along with him, he went in all haste to Caer Seiont, (called by the Romans Segontium, now Carnarvon,*) where King Cadwallon then kept his Court; when he was come before the king, he told him, with a great deal of zeal and concern, that he had not done well to devote to God's service what was another man's inheritance, and therefore demanded back of him the golden sceptre he had given him in lieu and consideration of the said land, which the king refusing to do, was presently excommunicated by Beuno, who thereupon departed and went away. But a certain person called Gwyddeiant, the king's cousin-german, hearing what had happened, immediately pursued Beuno; whom, when he had overtaken, he bestowed upon him (for the good of his own soul and the king's) the township of Clynnoc Vawr, being his undoubted inheritance; where Beuno built a church, about the year 616, about which time King Cadvan died, leaving his son Cadwallon to succeed him. And not long before this time, Eneon Brenin, or Anianus, King of the Scots, a considerable prince in the North of Britain, leaving all his royalty in those parts, came to Leyn in Gwynedd, where he built a church, which is still called from him, Llan Eingan Brenin; where he is said to have spent the remainder of his days in the fear and service of God. He was son to Owen Danwyn, the son of Eneon Yrth, son to Cunedda Wledig, King of Cumbria, and a great prince in the North, and cousin-german to the great Maelgwyn Gwynedd, King of Britain, whose father was Caswallon-law-hir, or the long handed,† the brother of Owen Danwyn; and his mother Medif, the daughter of Voylda ap Talu Traws, of Nanconwy. This Maelgwyn died about the year 586.

IVOR

* Caer-yn-ar-von; the city opposite Mona.—Humffrey Lhuyd, p. 65.
† Rowland's Mona Ant. p. 183.

IVOR & IDWAL YWRCH.

WHEN Cadwalader was departed for Rome, Alan began to reflect upon the state and condition of Great Britain; he imagined with himself that the recovery of it was not impracticable, but that a considerable army might regain what the Saxons now quietly possessed. Therefore he was resolved to try the utmost, and to send over all the forces he was able to draw together; not doubting the conquest of some part of Britain, in case the whole should prove irrecoverable. He was the more encouraged to this expedition, by reason that the advantage was like to be his own, and no one could challenge the government of Britain, in case fortune should deliver it to his hands. Cadwalader was gone to Rome, and in all probability never to return: his son Idwal Ywrch, or the Roe, was young and under the tuition of Alan, so that the event of this expedition must of necessity fall to himself, or by his concession to his son Ivor, who was to be chief in the undertaking. Having raised a considerable army, consisting chiefly of his own subjects, with what remained of the Britons that came over with King Cadwalader, he despatched it for Britain, under the command of his son Ivor, and his nephew Ynyr: they safely landed in the western parts of Britain, which put the Saxons to so great a fright, that they immediately drew up all their power to oppose them, and to hinder their progress into the country. The Britons, though somewhat fatigued with their voyage, gave them battle, and after a very great slaughter of the Saxons possessed themselves of the countries of Cornwall, Devon, and Somersetshire. This proved a fortunate beginning for the Britons, and gave them great hopes of farther success in the recovery of their country; but that could not be expected without great opposition, and several hot engagements with the Saxons. This they were immediately made sensible of; for they had scarce time to breathe, and to recover their spirits after the last battle, but Kentwyn, King of the West-Saxons, marched against them with a powerful army, consisting of Saxons and Angles. The Britons resolved to fight them; but whilst both armies were in view of each other they thought it more advisable to cease from any hostility, and to enter into articles of composition. Ivor seemed already satisfied with his conquest, and willingly agreed to marry Ethelberga, Kentwyn's cousin, and peaceably to enjoy for his life so much

much as he was already in possession of. This he faithfully observed during the reign of Kentwyn and his nephew Cadwal, who, after two years, resigned the kingdom of the West-Saxons to his cousin Ivor. And now Ivor was become unexpectedly powerful, being King as well of the Saxons as of the Britons that inhabited the western parts of the island. He was now able to undertake somewhat considerable, and therefore began to fall foul upon his neighbours, the kings of Kent, of the West-Saxons, and Mercia, whom he vanquished in several battles. But being at length tired with the weight of government, he went to Rome, after the example of Cadwalader, and resigned the rule of the Saxons to his cousin Adelred, leaving the Britons to the care of Roderic Molwynoc, the son of Idwal Ywrch.

This Ivor founded the Abbey of Glastonbury, called in the British tongue Ynys Avalon; where there had been a christian church for several years before, and the first that was ever erected in Britain. For Joseph of Arimathea being sent by Philip the Apostle in the days of Arviragus, An. Chr. 53, to preach the Gospel in Britain, seated himself here, and built a church for the British christians. This church afterwards Ivor converted into an abbey, which he endowed with very large possessions; being famous for the burying-place of Joseph of Arimathea* and King Arthur.

* Whether the ancient tradition of Joseph of Arimathea, who might then well transport himself into Britain in one of the Phœnician ships that frequently traded for tin, and to carry with him the first tidings of Christ, has any foundation in truth (not heeding the Glastonbury story), is uncertain. Yet it seems very probable that that honourable person, soon after the ascension of Christ, conveyed himself away from the Jewish sanhedrim, of which he was a member, to some remote country, for fear the Jews should question him about Christ's body, which he had buried, but which had risen up from the grave he had laid it in: which must be a fear well grounded, and a just occasion of his withdrawing himself somewhere out of their reach. And that he did so is very likely; for a person of his character and merit, if he had staid in Judea during the ten succeeding years after the resurrection, would in all probability have met with an eminent mention even in Scripture, either for his death or his conduct in propagating the gospel.—Rowland's Mona Antiqua Restaurata, p. 138.

Glastonbury derives its origin (says Camden) from Joseph of Arimathea, the same who buried Christ's body; who, when he came to preach the gospel in Great Britain, as it is asserted he did by the Romish legends, he landed in the isle of Avilon, fixed his staff in the ground (a dry thorn sapling, which had been his companion through all the countries he had passed), and fell asleep. When he awoke, he found to his great surprise that his staff had taken root, and was covered with white blossoms. From this miracle, however, he drew a natural conclusion, that, as the use of his staff was thus taken from him, it was ordained that he should take up his abode in this place. Here, therefore, he built a chapel, which, by the piety of succeeding times, increased into this magnificent foundation. But of these edifices, a small part of the great church of the abbey, fragments of Saint Joseph's chapel, the abbot's kitchen, and some unintelligible and dilapidated walls, are all which now survive.

Gibson, in his additions to Camden, folio 78, says—"From hence let us go along with Mr. Camden north-west to Glassonbury, where, among other curiosities, he mentions the budding of a *hawthorn-tree* on Christmas Day. The tree has been cut down these many years; yet there are some still growing in the county from branches of that, as particularly one in the garden of William Stroud, Esq. possessor of the ground where the other stood, another in the garden of the White Hart Inn, in Glassonbury."

Arthur. He bestowed also some lands upon the church of Winchester.

But there happened several casualties in his time. Brythe, a subject to Egfride King of Northumberland, passed over to Ireland, and wasted and destroyed a great part of that kingdom. In the fourth year of his reign there happened a remarkable earthquake in the Isle of Man, which much disturbed and annoyed the inhabitants; and the year following it rained blood both in Britain and Ireland. This occasioned the butter and milk to resemble the colour of blood; and two years after the moon also appeared all bloody. These accidents of nature might presage some tumults and disturbances in the kingdom; which were very great in his time. For he was almost in perpetual hostility with the Kings of Kent, West-Sex, and Mercia; which occasioned great bloodshed and slaughter in Britain. His journey to Rome put an end to all these commotions, from whence he never did return, but ended his days there in the practice of piety and religion.

RODERIC MOLWYNOC.

THE Government of the Britons Ivor resigned to Roderic Molwynoc, the son of Idwal Ywrch, who began his reign An. 720. But Adelred, King of the West-Saxons, was displeased that Ivor had not bestowed upon him his whole kingdom; and upon that account he resolved to trouble and plague Roderic and his Britons. He raised immediately a powerful army, and with all his forces marched to Devonshire, which he destroyed with fire and sword. From thence he proceeded to Cornwall, intending to make that country sensible of the same misery; but he came far short of his expectations, for upon his entrance into the county the Britons opposed him and gave him battle, where he was vanquished and forced to retire with all speed to his own dominions. This victory the Britons called Gwaeth Heilyn, from the place where this battle was fought. The year following, the Britons again obtained two notable victories over the Saxons; the one at a place called Garth Maelawc, in North Wales, the other at Pencost, in South Wales. But the joy and satisfaction which the Britons entertained of these successes, were somewhat abated by the death of Belin, the son of Elphin, a man of noble birth, and great worth among them. A.D. 720. A.D. 721.

About

About the same time Celredus King of Mercia died, and was succeeded by Ethelbaldus, who being very desirous to annex that fertile and pleasant country lying between the rivers Severn and Wye to his Kingdom of Mercia, entered Wales with a puissant army. He destroyed and ravaged the country before him to Carno, a mountain lying not far from Abergavenny,* where he was met with by the Britons, between whom a bloody and sore battle was fought in the
A.D. 728. year 728, but the victory proved very dubitable.

Not long after died the venerable Bede,† who was edu-
A.D. 733. cated and brought up in the Abbey of Wyrnetham or Iarewe; a man of great learning and extensive knowledge, who wrote several books, one of which, entitled, the Ecclesiastical History of the English Nation, he dedicated to Cleolwolfe King of Northumberland. The same time Adelred King of the West-Saxons, and Ethelbald King of Mercia, united their forces, and jointly marched to fight against the Britons. The Welsh were now put to very hard straits and forced to oppose the numerous armies of two powerful kings. However, fight they must, or suffer their country to be miserably over-run by their inveterate enemies. Both armies being engaged, a very dismal battle ensued thereupon, and a very great slaughter happened on both sides; but the Saxons prevailing by the number of their forces obtained a very bloody victory over the powerless Britons. But Adelred, who was shortly followed by Edwyn King of the Picts, did not long survive this battle; and Cudred took upon him the government of the West-Saxons. The Welsh found themselves unable to cope with the Saxons, and too weak to repress their endless incursions, therefore they applied themselves to Cudred and joined in league with him, who, upon some occasion or other, had actually fallen out with
A.D. 746. Ethelbald King of Mercia. But Ethelbald was so proud with the success of the last engagement, that notwithstanding the league with Cudred, he must needs again fall upon the Welsh. He advanced as far as Hereford,‡ where the Britons, by the help of Cudred, gave him a signal overthrow, and caused him to repent of his rash and precipitous expedition. But shortly after, Cudred and Ethelbald were unluckily reconciled, and made friends together, and Cudred relinquishing the Welsh, joined his forces to Ethelbald's. Hereupon ensued another battle, in which the Welsh, being greatly overpowered, were vanquished by the Saxons; after which

* Abergefni.

† At this time (A. D. 734) died the venerable Bede.—Flores Hist. Matth. Westm. p. 203.

‡ Anciently called Henfordd, or the old road of Englishmen.—Humffrey Lhuyd, p. 74.

which victory Cudred shortly died. To him succeeded Sigebert, a man of a loose and vicious inclination, who, for his ill-behaviour in the management of his kingdom, was in a short time expelled and deprived by his nobility, and at last miserably slain by a rascally swineherd. After him Kenulph was chosen King of the West-Saxons, Ann. 750, in whose time died Theodore, the son of Belin, a man of great esteem and reputation among the Britons. And about the same time a remarkable battle was fought between the Britons and the Picts at a place called Magedawc, in which the Picts were put to a total rout, and Dalargan their king casually slain. But the Britons did not succeed so well against the Saxons; for Roderic Molwynoc was at length forced to forsake the western countries of Britain, and to claim his own inheritance in North Wales.* The sons of Bletrus or Bledericus, Prince of Cornwall and Devonshire, who was one of them that vanquished Adelred and Ethelbert at Bangor on the river Dee, had enjoyed the government of North Wales ever since Cadfan was chosen King of Britain. Roderic, therefore, demanded the government of this country as his right, which he was now willing to accept of, seeing he was forced to quit what he had hitherto possessed. But he did not long enjoy it; for he died in a short time, leaving behind him† two sons, Conan Tindaethwy and Howel, after that he had in all reigned over the Britons thirty years.

A.D. 748.

A.D. 750.

CONAN TINDAETHWY.

RODERIC Molwynoc being dead, his son, Conan Tindaethwy took upon him the government and principality of Wales, in the year 755.‡ He was scarcely settled in his throne, but the Saxons began to make inroads into his country, to spoil and destroy what they conveniently could meet with. They were animated thereto by the ill success of Roderic; and having forced the Britons out of Cornwall and Devonshire, they thought it practicable to drive them out of Wales too, and so to reduce the possession of the whole Island to themselves. This was their aim, and this they endeavoured to put in execution; but they were met with

A.D. 755.

* Rowland's Mona Ant. p. 188.

† He usually resided at Caer Segont, on the Straits of the Menai, in Caernarvonshire. —Rowland's Mona Ant. p. 172.

‡ Rowland's Mona Ant. p. 188.

with at Hereford, where a severe battle was fought between them and the Welsh, in which Dyfnwal the son of Theodore, a stout and valiant soldier, was slain. And shortly afterwards died Athelbert, King of Northumberland, and was succeeded by Oswald.

About the same time happened a religious quarrel between the Britons and Saxons, concerning the observation of the feast of Easter, which Elbodius, a learned and pious man, endeavoured to rectify in Wales, and to reduce to the Roman calculation, which the Saxons always observed. The Britons differed from the Church of Rome in the celebration of this feast; and the difference was this. The Church of Rome, according to the order of the council of Nice, always observed Easter-day the next Sunday after the 14th day of the moon; so that it never happened upon the 14th day itself, nor passed the 21st. The Britons on the other hand celebrated their Easter upon the 14th, and so forward to the 20th, which occasioned this difference, that the Sunday observed as Easter-day by the Britons was but Palm-Sunday with the Saxons. Upon this account the Saxons did most uncharitably traduce the Britons, and would scarcely allow them the name and title of Christians. Hereupon, about the year 660, a great contest happened, managed on the one part by Colman and Hylda, who defended the rites and celebration of the Britons; and by Gilbert and Wilfride on the part of the Saxons. Hylda was the niece of Edwine, King of Northumberland, educated by Pauline and Aedan. She publicly opposed Wilfride and other superstious monks, as to such trifles and bigotry in religion, alleging out of Polycrates, the fact of Irenæus, who withstood Victor, Bishop of Rome, upon the same account; and the custom of the churches of Asia observed by St. John the Evangelist, Philip the Apostle, Polycarpus, and Melito; and likewise observed in Britain by Joseph of Arimathea, who first preached the gospel here.

A.D. 763. Offa* was made King of Mercia, and Brichtrich of the West-Saxons; about which time died Fermael, the son of Edwal and Cemoyd, King of the Picts. The Saxons daily encroached upon the lands and territories of the Welsh beyond the river Severn, but more especially towards the south part of the country. These encroachments the Welsh could not endure, and therefore were resolved to recover their own, and to drive the Saxons out of their country. The Britons of South Wales, as receiving the greatest injur

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* Saxon. Annal. p. 59.

and disadvantage from the Saxons, presently took up arms A. D. 776.
and entered into the country of Mercia, which they ravaged and destroyed with fire and sword. Shortly after, all the Welsh joined their forces together, fell upon the Saxons, forced them to retire beyond the Severn, and then returned home with a very considerable spoil of English cattle.* The Welsh, finding the advantage of this last incursion, and how that by these means they galled and vexed the Saxons, frequently practised the same; and, entering their country by stealth, they killed and destroyed all before them, and driving the cattle beyond the river, ravaged and laid waste the whole country. Offa, King of Mercia, not being able to endure these daily incursions and depredations of the Welsh, entered into a league with the rest of the Saxon kings to bend their whole force against the Welsh, and having raised a very strong and numerous army, passed the Severn into Wales. The Welsh being far too weak to oppose and encounter so great an army, quitted the even and plain country lying upon the banks of the Severn and Wye,† and retired to the mountains and rocks, where they knew they could be most safe from the inveterate and revengeful arms of the Saxons: but as soon as the Saxons retired, being unable to effect any thing against them in these strong and natural fortifications, the Welsh still made inroads into their territories, and seldom returned without some considerable booty and advantage. The Saxons were much nettled at these bo-peeping ravagers, and pursued them still to their holds, but durst not follow them further, lest they should be entrapped by such as defended the straights and passages of the rocks. King Offa, perceiving that he could effect nothing by these measures, annexed the country about the Severn and Wye to his kingdom of Mercia, and planted the same with Saxons:‡ and for a further security against the continued invasions of the Welsh he made a deep ditch, extending from one sea to the other, called Clawdd Offa, or Offa's Dike; upon which account the royal seat of the Princes of Powys was translated from Pengwern,§ now Shrewsbury, to Mathraval in Montgomeryshire.

While

* Welsh Chron. p. 19. † Hafren and Gwy.—Langhorn Chron. Reg. Ang. p. 292.

‡ The large towns and cities situate to the east of the Severn and Dee were probably built at this period to check the incursions of the Welsh by a strong line of frontier posts. The villages likewise on the east side of Clawdd Offa, whose names terminate in *ton* or *ham*, were about this time inhabited by Saxons, who were usually called *Gwyr y Mers*, or the men of Mercia, though in after times the Welsh settled on each side of the dike.

§ Its ancient name was Pengwern, or the head of a place where alders grow, and was the seat of the Kings of Powys; whence the Saxon term *Schrewsbury* is derived.—Humffrey Lhuyd's Breviary, pp. 27 and 50.

A. D. 795. While these things were transacted in the west, the Danes began to grow powerful at sea, and ventured to land in the north of England; but without doing any great hurt, being forced to betake themselves to their ships again. Within six years after they landed again in great numbers, and proved much more terrible; they ravaged and destroyed a great part of Linsey and Northumberland, overrun the best part of Ireland, and miserably wasted Rechreyn. At the same time a considerable battle was fought at Rhuddlan between the Saxons and Welsh, wherein Caradoc king of North Wales was killed. The government of Wales was as yet but weak, and not firmly rooted, by reason of the perpetual quarrels and disturbances between the Welsh and the Saxons; so that the chief person or lord of any country assumed to himself the title of king. Caradoc was a person of great esteem and reputation in North Wales, and one that did very much contribute towards the security of the country against the incursions of the Saxons. He was son to Gwyn, the son of Colhoyn, the son of Ednowen, son to Blethyn, the son of Blecius or Bledericus, Prince of Cornwall and Devonshire. Offa, King of Mercia,* did not long
A. D. 796. survive him, and was succeeded by his son Egfert, who in a short time left his kingdom also to Kenulphus; a year after that Egbertus was created King of the West Saxons. About the same time died Arthen, son to Sitsyllht, the son of Clydawc King of Cardigan; and sometime after, Run King of Dyfed,† and Cadelh King of Powys, who were followed by Elbodius, Archbishop of North Wales, before whose death happened a very great eclipse of the sun. The year following the moon was likewise eclipsed upon
A. D. 808. Christmas-day. These fatalities and eclipses were thought to portend no success to the affairs of Wales; the laying of St. David's in ashes by the West Saxons being followed by a general and very grievous murrain of cattle, which much impoverished the whole country. The following year, Owen the son of Meredith, the son of Terudos, died, and the castle of Deganwy was destroyed by lightning.

These great losses which the Welsh sustained did not reconcile Prince Conan and his brother Howel; for they quarrelled with each other when they had the more occasion to embrace and unite their endeavours against the common enemy. Howel claimed the isle of Anglesey as part of his father's inheritance, which Conan would by no means accede to, nor consent that his brother should take possession of it. It was the custom of Wales, that a father's estate should be equally distributed between all his sons; and Howel, by virtue

* Welsh Chron. p. 20. † Pembroke.

virtue of this custom, commonly called Gavelkind from the word *Gafel*, to hold, claimed that island as his portion of his father's estate. This custom of Gavelkind was the occasion of the ruin and diminution of the estates of all the ancient nobility in Wales, which, being endlessly divided between the several sons of the same family, were at length reduced to nothing. From hence also proceeded various unnatural wars and disturbances between brothers, who, being either not satisfied with their portions or displeased with the country they were to possess, disputed their right by dint of the sword. This proved the case in the present instance; for Howel would not suffer himself to be cheated out of his paternal inheritance, and therefore he endeavoured to recover it by force of arms. Both armies being engaged, the victory fell to Howel, who immediately thereupon possessed himself of the island, and valiantly maintained it against the power and strength of his brother Conan.

The Welsh being thus at variance and enmity among themselves, and striving how to destroy one another, had yet another disaster added to their misfortunes. For the following year they suffered a very considerable loss by thunder storms, which very much injured the country, and laid several houses and towns in ashes. About the same time, Griffith the son of Run, a person of considerable quality in Wales, died; and Griffri the son of Cyngen was treacherously murdered by the practices of his brother Elis.

But Conan would not rest satisfied with his brother Howel's forcible possession of the Island of Anglesey, and therefore he was resolved again to give him battle, and to force him to restore and yield up the possession of that country which he had now in his hands. Howel, on the other hand, being as resolutely bent to maintain his ground, and not to deliver up a foot of what he possessed, as well in respect of his father's legacy as his late conquest, willingly met his brother, put him to flight, and killed a great number of his forces. Conan was greatly enraged at this shameful overthrow, and therefore resolved either to recover the island from his brother, or to sacrifice his life and his crown in the quarrel. Having drawn up all the forces he A. D. 817. could raise together, he marched to Anglesey to seek his brother Howel, who being too weak to encounter and oppose so considerable a number, was compelled to make his escape to the Isle of Man, and to leave the Island of Anglesey to the mercy of his brother. Conan, however, did not live long to reap the satisfaction of this victory, but died in a short

short time, leaving issue an only daughter called Esylht, married to a nobleman of Wales named Merfyn Frych. He was son to Gwyriad or Uriet, the son of Elidur, who was lineally descended from Belinus, the brother of Brennus King of the Britons. His mother was Nêst, the daughter of Cadelh King of Powys, the son of Brochwel Yscithroc,* who, together with Cadfan King of Britain, Morgan King of Demetia, and Bledericus King of Cornwall, gave that memorable overthrow to Etheldred King of Northumberland, upon the river Dee, in the year 617. This Brochwel, by the Latin writers named Brecinallus and Brochmaelus, was a very considerable prince in that part of Britain called Powys-land; he was also Earl of Chester, and lived in the town then called Pengwern Powys, now Salop, and in the place where the college of St. Chad was subsequently erected. He was a great friend and a favourer to the monks of Bangor, whose part he took against the Saxons that were urged by Augustine the monk to prosecute them with fire and sword, because they would not forsake the customs of their own church, and conform to those of Rome.

MERFYN FRYCH & ESYLHT.

CONAN being dead, Merfyn Frych and his wife Esylht, who was sole heir to Conan, took upon them the government of the principality of Wales. This Merfyn was King of Man, and son to Gwyriat and Nêst, the daughter of Cadelh ap Brochwel ap Elis King of Powys.† Howel, being forcibly ejected out of Anglesey by his brother, Conan Tindaethwy, escaped to the Island of Man, and was honourably and kindly received by Merfyn; in return for whose civilities Howel used such means afterwards, that Merfyn married Esylht, the daughter and heir of his brother Conan (though others say that he died presently after his escape to Merfyn). Howel, after he had for about five years

* Of whom it is thus written in *Historia Divæ Monacellæ*—"Fuit olim in *Powysia* quidam Princeps illustrissimus nomine *Brochwel Ysgithrog*, consul Leycestriæ, qui in urbem tunc temporis, *Pengwern Powys*, nunc vero *Salopia* dicta est habitabat; cujus domicilium seu Habitaculum ibi steterat ubi collegium divi Ceddæ tunc situm est."—*i. e.* "There was sometime in *Powys* a noble prince, named *Brochwel Ysgithrog*, Consul or Earl of Chester, who dwelt in a town then called *Pengwern Powys*, and now *Salop*, whose dwelling house was in the very same place where the College of St. Chad now standeth."

† Welsh Chronicle, p. 22.

years enjoyed the Isle of Man, and other lands in the north which he held under Merfyn, died about the year 825; on whose death these possessions again reverted to Merfyn, whose ancestors had always held the same under the Kings of the Britons; and thus, upon his marriage with Esyllt, the Isle of Man was annexed to the crown of Wales.*

In the first year of their reign, Egbert, the powerful King of the West Saxons, entered with a mighty army into Wales, destroyed and wasted the country as far as Snowdon, and seized upon the lordship of Rhyvonioc in Denbighland.† About the same time a battle was fought in Anglesey between the Saxons and Welsh, called, from the place where it happened, the battle of Llanvaes. Fortune seemed during this period to frown upon the Welsh, and their affairs were very unsuccessful; for shortly after Egbert had advanced as far as Snowdon, Kenulph King of Mercia wasted the country of West Wales, over-ran and destroyed Powys-land, and greatly disturbed and incommoded the Welsh nation.‡ Soon after this, Kenulph died, and was succeeded by Kenelm; and he in a short time by Ceolwulph, who, after two years' reign, left the kingdom of Mercia to Bernulph.

Egbert, King of the West Saxons, was grown very strong A. D. 828.
and powerful, and contemplated the reduction of all the petty kingdoms in Britain under one single monarchy;§ upon which he commenced with Bernulph King of Mercia, and vanquished him at Elledowne; and afterwards brought under subjection the countries of Kent and of the West Angles. But the Britons would not be so easily subdued; for after a long and a cruel fight at Gavelford, between them and the West Saxons of Devonshire, in which several thousands were slain on both sides, the victory remained uncertain. He had better success against Wyhtlafe King A. D. 829.
of Mercia, whose dominions he easily added to his now increasing monarchy; and passing the Humber, he quickly reduced that country to his subjection. The Saxon heptarchy was now become one kingdom, and Egbert sole monarch of all the countries that the Saxons possessed in Britain; which name he ordered should be changed to England, his people to be called Englishmen, and the language English.‖

They

* Rowland's Mona Ant. p. 188.

† Matthew Westm. (p. 224—227) recites three different invasions of Wales by Egbert, in which he subdued that country and made its kings tributary. A. D. 810, 811, 830.

‡ Welsh Chron. pp. 24, 25.

§ Fabian, p. 184.—Rowland's Mona Ant. p. 171.

‖ Humffrey Lhuyd's Brev. p. 13.—Verstegan, c. 5, p. 125.

They who came over out of Germany into this island to aid the Britons against their enemies the Picts and Scots, were partly Saxons, Angles, and Juthes; from the first of whom came the people of Essex, Sussex, Middlesex, and the West Saxons; from the Angles, the East Angles, the Mercians, and they that inhabited the north side of the Humber; from the Juthes, the Kentishmen and they that settled in the Isle of Wight. These Germans, after they had driven the Britons beyond Severn and Dee, erected seven kingdoms, called the Heptarchy, in the other part of the island: namely, 1. Kent. 2. The South Saxons, containing Sussex and Surrey. 3. The East Angles, in Norfolk, Suffolk, and Cambridgeshire. 4. The kingdom of the West Saxons, comprehending Berkshire, Devonshire, Somersetshire, and Cornwall. 5. Mercia, containing the present counties of Gloucester, Hereford, Worcester, Salop, Stafford, Chester, Warwick, Leicester, Derby, Nottingham, Lincoln, Northampton, Oxford, Buckingham, Bedford, and part of Hertford. 6. The East Saxons, containing Essex, Middlesex, and the other part of Hertford. 7. The Northumbrians, taking in all the country beyond Humber, which was divided into two parts, Deyra and Bernicia, the first portion extending from Humber to Tyne, the other from Tyne to the Scottish sea.

Egbert, King of the West Saxons, having severally conquered these kingdoms, annexed them together, and comprehended them under one monarchy, which was called the kingdom of England, 968 years after the coming of Brute to this island, 383 years after the landing of Hengist, and 149 years after the departure of Cadwalader to Rome.

Egbert,* having thus united under one government these several kingdoms, which used continually to molest and to encroach upon each other's territories, might reasonably have expected to enjoy his new kingdom quietly, without
A. D. 883. fear of any disturbance or trouble in his dominions. But no sooner was he established king of England, than the Danes began to threaten new commotions, and landed in great numbers, and in divers parts of the coast. Egbert fought several battles with them, and with various success: at length the Danes landed in West Wales, marched forward for England, being joined by a great number of Welsh, and met Egbert upon Hengist-down, where a severe battle was fought, and the Danes put to a total rout.† The Welsh suffered severely for this: Egbert, being highly incensed that the Danes were supported by them, laid siege to

* Welsh Chron. p. 24, 25.—† Saxon Chron. p. 72.

to Caer Lhêon ar Dhyfrdwy, or Chester, the chief city of Venedotia, which hitherto had remained in the hands of the Welsh;* he took the place, and, among other tokens of his indignation, he caused the brazen effigies of Cadwalhon King of Britain to be pulled down and defaced,† and forbad the erecting of such again on pain of death. He issued also a proclamation by the instigation of his wife Redburga, who always bore an inveterate hatred towards the Welsh, commanding all that were any ways descended from British blood, to depart, with all their effects, out of his kingdom within six months, upon pain of death.‡ These were very severe and insupportable terms; but he did not live to see them put in execution; for dying shortly after the battle of Hengist-down, he was succeeded by his son Ethelwulph. This King Ethelwulph married his daughter to Berthred, who was his tributary King of Mercia, by whose help he successfully opposed the cruel incursions of the Danes, who miserably destroyed the sea-coasts of England by fire and sword. These Danish invasions having been successfully resisted, Berthred King of Mercia attacked the Welsh, with whom a remarkable battle was fought at a place called Kettell; where Merfyn Frych, King of the Britons, was killed, leaving his son Roderic Mawr, or the Great, to succeed him in the government of Wales.§

RODERIC THE GREAT.

MERFYN FRYCH having lost his life, and with it his kingdom, in the battle of Kettell, his son Roderic, surnamed the Great, without any opposition, succeeded to the Principality of Wales. A.D. 843. The first thing he effected after his advancement to the crown was the dividing of Wales into 3 provinces, which he distinguished thus:—Aberffraw, Dinevawr, and Mathraval. Berthred, King of Mercia, being animated by his late success against Merfyn Frych, purposed to perform the like exploits against his son Roderic; and having gained the aid and assistance of King Ethelwulph, he entered North Wales|| with a strong army, and advanced as far as Anglesey, which he cruelly ravaged. Roderic met him several times, and the Welsh at length so galled and resisted him that he had little or nothing to boast

* Chron. of Wales, p. 72. † Stowe's Chron. p. 77.
‡ Chron. of Wales, p. 27. § Saxon Chron. p. 75.
|| Rowland's Mona Ant. p. 174.—Sim. Dunelme, p. 120-139.—Hist. Angl. Script.—Matthew Westm. p. 231.—Chron. of Wales, p. 35.

boast of, although Meyric, one of the chief princes among the Britons, was slain.

Berthred was, however, soon forced to desist from his expedition against the Welsh, and to turn his forces another way, his own dominions requiring their constant residence,
A. D. 846. being severely threatened by a foreign invasion: for the Danes were by this time grown so very powerful, that they overran a great part of England, fought with Athelstan, King of Kent, brother to Ethelwulph, and obtained so much footing, that whereas they had on previous occasions returned to their own country when the weather grew too cold for action, they now took up their winter quarters in England.

The Welsh, in the mean time, being secure from that violence which they might otherwise have expected from the English, began to quarrel and fall out amongst themselves. Ithel, King of Gwent or Wentland, for what occasion is not known, attacked the men of Brecknock, who were so resolute as to fight him, and the event proved fatal to Ithel, who was slain upon the spot: thus affording another proof that it is the unhappiness of a nation to be composed of several petty states, for in such case, when it is not under apprehension of danger from an outward enemy, it will often be at variance and experience disturbance within itself.

Had the Britons, instead of falling upon one another, taken the advantage of this opportunity, when the Saxons were altogether employed in opposing and repelling the Danes, to increase and strengthen their number and to fortify their towns, they might at least securely have possessed their own dominions, if not extended their government to a great part of England; but a sort of an equality in power begat an emulation between the several princes, and this emulation for the most part ended in contention,—so that instead of strengthening themselves whilst they had respite from the English, they rather weakened their power by inward differences.

Kyngen King of Powys having gone to Rome, there to
A. D. 854. end his days peaceably and religiously, experienced a death not so natural as he had anticipated, being barbarously slain (or, as some say, choked) by his own servants. Shortly after died Cemoyth King of the Picts, and Jonathan Lord of Abergeley. It was at this time customary for princes wearied with government to go to Rome, and the Pope willingly dispensed with the resignation of their crowns, because his Holiness seldom lost by it. King Ethelwulph

Ethelwulph paid very dear for his entertainment there, having made his kingdom tributary to the Pope, and paid the Peter-pence to the church of Rome. The Saxon genealogists carry the pedigree of Ethelwulph even up to Adam, as may be seen in Matthew of Westminster, who in like manner derives the pedigree of Offa, King of Mercia. This pride in genealogy has been the custom of most nations both ancient and modern, and has always been evinced by those whose families are ancient and honourable; so that it is very unfair to deride the Welsh because they adhere to this ancient and laudable custom.

Berthred King of Mercia became at length far too weak to repel the daily increasing power of the Danes, who so numerously poured upon him, that at last he was forced to relinquish his kingdom and fly to Rome, where in a short time he sorrowfully ended his days. Ethelwulph soon followed, and left his sons, Athelbald King of the West Saxons, and Athelbright King of Kent and of the East Saxons. Ethelwulph is reported to have been so learned and devout, that the church of Winchester elected him in his youth Bishop of that see, which function he took upon him about seven years before he was made king. He is said also to have conquered the kingdom of Demetia or South Wales, which, together with the kingdom of the South-Saxons, he bestowed upon his son Alfred, upon condition he would bring a thousand men out of Wales to Winchester to the aid of his brother Ethelbert against the Danes. Athelbald succeeding his father in the kingdom of the West Saxons, kept his mother-in-law, the wife of Ethelwulph, for his concubine, and afterwards married her in the city of Chester. He did not live long in this unnatural connexion, but dying without issue after he had reigned eight years, left his kingdom to his brother Athelbright.

About the same time the Danes began again to bestir themselves, and attacked the city of Winchester and destroyed it, on which Athelbright, after a long fight, forced them to quit the land and to betake themselves to sea again: but the Danes quickly returned to the Isle of Thanet, where they remained for that winter, doing much mischief upon the sea-coast, and destroying various places on the coast of England. The English were very glad that they durst venture no further, and the more, because the Welsh began again to be troublesome, against whom an army was speedily dispatched, in order to prevent the advance of the Welsh to the English country. Both armies met at Gweythen, where a fierce battle was fought, and a great number slain

slain on each side, but the victory was uncertain. The Welsh, however, not long after, sustained a considerable loss by the death of Conan Nant Nifer, a brave and skilful commander, who oftentimes had valiantly repulsed the English forces, and obtained many signal victories over them.

The Danes had been for some time quiet, being unable to venture upon any considerable action, and deeming it adviseable to secure only what they had already won until they received a reinforcement from their own country. This was quickly sent them, under the command of Hungare and Hubba, who landed in England with a very considerable army of Danes. King Athelbright, whether terrified with apprehension of these invaders, or otherwise being indisposed, quickly afterwards gave up the ghost, leaving the management of his kingdom, together with that of his army against the Danes, to his brother Ethelred. The Danes in the mean time got sure footing, and advanced as far as York, which they miserably wasted, killing Osbright and Elba, two Kings of Northumberland that opposed them. From hence they proceeded to overrun all the country as far as Nottingham, destroying and spoiling all before them, and then returned back to York: but having once tasted how sweet was the spoil of a country much more fertile than their own, they could not rest satisfied with what they had already obtained, but made a farther progress into the country, and attacked the kingdom of the East-Angles. Edmund King of that country being unwilling to endure their ravages, endeavoured to oppose them, but in the undertaking was unfortunately slain. And now after the same manner that the Saxons had formerly attained to the conquest of Britain, the Danes proceeded to the conquest of England; for the Saxons having found out the value of this island, and withal discovered the weakness and inability of the Britons to oppose them, brought over their hosts by degrees and in several companies, by which they wearied and tired out the British armies. It is certain that nothing conduces more to the conquest of an island than the landing an army at several places and at several times, thus distracting the counsels and proceedings of the inhabitants; and which, in this instance, for want of sufficient power at sea, could not be prevented. The Danes, being informed of the good success of Hungare and Hubba in England, sent over another army under the command of Basreck and Alding, who landed in Wessex, and fought five battles with King Ethelred and his brother Alfred, namely, at Henglefield,

field, Eastondown, Redding, Basing, and Mereton, in which two first the English were successful, and in the three last the Danes obtained the victory.

Soon after this Etheldred died, leaving his kingdom to his brother Alfred,* who, as soon as he had taken the government upon him, considered within himself what a heavy burthen he had to sustain, and therefore he began to enquire after the wisest† and most learned men, to be directed by them, whom he worthily entertained, making use of their advice as well in the public government of the kingdom as in his private studies and conferences of learning. He sent for two very learned men out of Wales, the one called John de Erigena, surnamed Scotus, the other Asserius, surnamed Menevensis. De Erigena was born at Menevia, or St. David's, and was brought up in that college; and, for the sake of learning, having travelled to Athens, and bestowed there many years in the study of the Greek, Hebrew, and Chaldaic tongues, and in the mysteries of philosophy, came to France, where he was well received by Carolus Calvus, or Charles the Bald, and Ludovicus Balbus, or Lewis the Stammerer; he there translated the work of Dionysius Areopagita, *De Cœlesti Hierarchia*, out of the Greek into the Latin tongue. Being returned to Wales, he was sent for by this King Alfred, who was then founding and erecting the University of Oxford, of which Erigena became the first professor and public reader.‡ Indeed, King Alfred bore so great a respect to learning, that he would suffer none to bear any considerable office in his court but such as were learned; and withal exhorted all persons to embrace learning, and to honour learned men. But though a love to learning be seldom reconcileable with a warlike and military life, King Alfred was forced to regard the discipline of war, so as to defend his kingdom against the increasing power of the Danes. For he was scarce settled in his throne, but this restless and ever-troublesome people began to molest and destroy his country, insomuch that he was of necessity forced to attack them, which he did twice upon the south side of the river Thames, in which engagements he slew of the Danes one king and nine earls, together with an innumerable multitude of inferior soldiers. About the same time Gwgan ap Meyric ap Dunwal ap Arthen ap Sitsylht, Prince of Cardigan, died, being (as some say) unfortunately drowned. The late victories which Alfred had obtained over the Danes, did not so much weaken and dishearten them, A.D. 872.

* William Malmsbury, lib. 2, cap. 4, p. 42.

† Polydore-Vergil, lib. 5, p. 106. ‡ Chron. of Wales, p. 3

them, but that in a short time they recovered their spirits and began again to display a threatening aspect. For as soon as they could re-unite their scattered forces, they attacked and destroyed the town of Alclyde, obtained possession of the city of London and Reading, and over-ran all the inland country and the whole kingdom of Mercia. Another army of Danes at the same time proved very successful in the North, and possessed themselves of the country of Northumberland, which did not so much grieve the English as it annoyed the Picts and Scots, who were frequently beat off by these Danish troops. The next year three of the Danish captains marched from Cambridge towards Wareham in Dorsetshire, of which expedition King Alfred being informed, presently detached his forces to oppose them, and to offer them battle. The Danes were so alarmed at this, that they immediately desired peace, and willingly consented forthwith to depart out of the country, and to forswear the sight of English ground: according to which capitulation the horse that night marched for Exeter, and the foot being shipped off, were all of them drowned at Sandwich. The Danes having thus left England, were not willing to return home empty, but bent their course against Wales. They fancied that they were like to meet with no great opposition from the Welsh, and therefore could carve for themselves according as their fancy directed them; but having landed their army in Anglesey, they quickly experienced the contrary; Prince Roderic opposing them, gave them two battles, one at a place called Bengole,
A.D. 873. and the other at Menegid, in Anglesey. At the same time, another army of Danes, under the command of Halden and Hungare, landed in South Wales, over-ran the whole country, destroying all before them, neither sparing churches nor religious houses.* But they received their due reward at the hands of the West Saxons, who, meeting with them on the coasts of Devonshire, slew both Halden and Hungare, with 1200 of their men. The same year Einion, Bishop of St. David's, died, and was the following year succeeded by Hubert, who was installed in his place.

A.D. 876. The English, being rid of their powerful and ever restless enemies the Danes, began now to quarrel with the Welsh. Entering into Anglesey, with a numerous army, they fought a

* Welsh Chron. p. 34.

About this time Roderic changed the royal residence from Caer Segont, near the present town of Caernarvon, to Aberffraw, in Anglesey. It is strange that he should desert a country where every mountain was a natural fortress; and, in times of such difficulty and danger, should make choice of a residence so exposed and defenceless.—Rowland's Mona Ant. p. 173.

a severe battle with Roderic, who, together with his brother (or as others say his son) Gwyriad, was unhappily slain in the field, which battle is called by the Welsh, Gwaith Duw Sul y Mon.* This Roderic had issue (by his wife Angharad) Anarawd, Cadelh, and Merfyn, the last of which, Giraldus Cambrensis, contrary to the common and received opinion, will have to be the eldest son of Roderic, upon whom was bestowed the principality of North Wales; for it was unanimously granted that Roderic was the undoubted proprietor of all the dominions of Wales; North Wales descending unto him by his mother Esylht, the daughter and sole heir of Conan Tindaethwy; South Wales by his wife Angharad, the daughter of Meyric ap Dyfnwal ap Arthen ap Sitsylht, King of Cardigan; Powys by Nêst, the sister and heir of Cyngen ap Cadelh, King of Powys, his father's mother.† These three districts Roderic apportioned to his three sons, giving North Wales to his eldest son Anarawd, and South Wales to Cadelh, who, shortly after his father's death, forcibly seized upon the portion of his brother Merfyn, upon whom Roderic had bestowed Powysland. Wales being thus divided between these three princes, they were called Y Tri Tywysoc Talaethioc, or the three crowned princes, by reason that each of them did wear on his helmet a coronet of gold, being a broad head-band indented upward, set and wrought with precious stones, which in the British Tongue is called Talaeth. For each of these princes Roderic built a royal residence: for the Prince of Gwynedd, or North Wales, at Aberffraw; of South Wales, at Dinefawr; for the Prince of Powys, at Mathrafal. Roderic had issue also, besides these three, Roderic, Meyric, Edwal or Tudwal, Gwyriad, and Gathelic.

Roderic, having divided his principality betwixt his eldest sons, namely, Aberffraw, with the 15 cantreds thereunto belonging, to Anarawd; Dinefawr, with its 15 cantreds, extending from the mouth of the river Dyfi to the mouth of the Severn, to Cadelh; and Powys, with 15 cantreds, from the mouth of the river Dee to the bridge over the Severn at Gloucester, to Merfyn; ordained, "That his eldest son, Anarawd,‡ and his successors, should continue the payment of the ancient tribute to the Crown of England;§ and the other two, their heirs, and successors, should acknowledge his sovereignty; and that upon any foreign

* Welsh Chron. p. 35. † Rowland's Mona Ant. p. 174.

‡ Roderic, regarding likewise his eldest son Anarawd, as the immediate heir of the *Cynethian* line, he left to him and his successors the title of *Brenhin Cymru Oll*, or King of all Wales.—Rowland's Mona, pp. 174, 175.

§ These tributes, according to Mr. Robert Vaughan, of Hengwrt, in Brit. Ant. Reviv. pp. 39, 40, were paid in the following manner:—The Kings of North Wales were to pay

foreign invasion they should mutually aid and protect one another."

He farther appointed, "That when any difference should arise betwixt the Princes of Aberffraw and Cardigan or Dinefawr, the three princes should meet at Bwylch-y-Pawl,* and the Prince of Powys should be umpire: but if the Princes of Aberffraw and Powys fell at variance, they should meet at Dol Rhianedd, probably Morva Rhianedd, on the bank of the River Dee, where the King of Cardigan was to adjust the controversy. If the quarrel happened betwixt the Princes of Powys and Cardigan, the meeting was appointed at Llys Wen upon the river Wye, and to be decided by the Prince of Aberffraw."

And the better to frustrate any attempt of the English, he ordained, moreover, "That all strong holds, castles, and citadels should be fortified and kept in repair; that all churches and religious houses should be re-edified and adorned, and that in all ages the history of Britain, being faithfully registered and transcribed, should be kept therein."

ANARAWD.

A.D. 877. THE Welsh had often sorrowfully felt the unnatural effects of inward seditions, and of being governed by several princes, which were now about to be renewed by Roderic's imprudent division of his dominions between his three sons. The several principalities being united in him, it would certainly have been the most politic means, for the preservation of the country from the inveterate fury of the English, and for composing the inward differences which would otherwise happen, to perpetuate the whole government of Wales in one prince; it being impossible so effectually to oppose the common enemy by separate armies, and where a different interest interfered, as if the safety of the same country and the honour of the prince were unanimously regarded. This was the misfortune of the Ancient Britons when the Romans invaded their country: domestic broils and inward dissensions being sown among themselves, they could not agree to unite their powers and jointly to oppose the common enemy; so

£63 to the crown of London; the Princes of Powys four tons of flour, and the Princes of South Wales four tons of honey, to the Sovereigns of North Wales. The royal tribute was called Teyrnged; that paid from the Princes of South Wales and Powys to the Sovereign of North Wales, was called Madged.

* In the present county of Montgomery.

so that Tacitus wisely concludes,—*Dum singuli pugnant universi vincuntur.*

There are few nations but have experienced the folly of being rent into several portions; and the downfal of the Roman empire may, not without reason, be attributed to Constantine's division of it between his sons. The Welsh at this time soon felt the unhappiness of being in separate states; for Cadelh Prince of South Wales being dissatisfied with his portion, and desirous to feed his ambition with larger territories, seized part of his brother Merfyn's country, and, attempting forcibly to dispossess him of his lawful inheritance, involved the Welsh in a civil war.

The succession of the Princes of Wales proceeded in Anarawd, the eldest son of Roderic, who began his reign over North Wales in the year 877.* At that time Rollo, A.D. 877. with a numerous army of Normans, descended into France, and possessed themselves of the country of Neustria, which from them has since received the name of Normandy. The treacherous Danes in England, also, who had retired to the city of Exeter, violated the capitulation which they had lately sworn to observe, and upon that account were so warmly pressed by King Alfred, that they gladly delivered up hostages for the performance of the articles formerly agreed upon between them. It was not, however, their intention to keep them long; for the next year they again broke loose, possessed themselves of all the country upon the north side of the Thames, and, passing the river, put the English to flight, and made themselves masters of Chippenham in Wessex: but their whole army did not succeed so well; for Alfred, meeting with a party of them, slew their captain and took their standard, which the Danes called RAVEN. After this, he vanquished them again at Edendown, where, the Danes having given hostages for their peaceable behaviour, Godrun, their commander, received the Christian faith, and so reigned in East Angle. This period seemed to portend a great storm upon Wales; A.D. 878. for besides the death of Aeddan, the son of Melht, a nobleman of the country, the articles of composition between the English and Danes occasioned these last to join their power with the people of Mercia to fight against the Welsh, with whom a severe battle was fought at Conwey, wherein the Welsh obtained a signal victory, which was called "Dial Rodri, or the Revenge of the Death of Prince Roderic."

The reason why the Mercians were so irreconcileably enraged

* Rowland, p. 174.

This territory was the Venedocia of the Romans, and was by the Britons called Gwynedh.—Humff. Lhuyd, p. 64.

raged against the Welsh at this time was this: After the death of Roderic the Great, the northern Britons of Stratclwyd and Cumberland were much infested and weakened by the daily incursions of the Danes, Saxons, and Scots, insomuch that as many of them as would not submit their necks to the yoke were forced to quit their country and to seek for more quiet habitations: therefore, about the beginning of Anarawd's reign, many of them came to Gwynedd, under the conduct of one Hobert, whose distressed condition the prince commiserating, granted them all the country betwixt Chester and Conwey to seat themselves in, in case they could drive out the Saxons who had lately possessed themselves of it.

The Britons having expressed their thanks to Anarawd, presently fell to work, and necessity giving edge to their valour, they easily dispossessed the Saxons, who were not as yet secure in their possessions. For some time the Welsh continued peaceably in these parts reconquered; but Eadred, Duke of Mercia, called by the Welsh Edryd Wallthir, not being able any longer to bear such an ignominious ejection, made great preparations for the regaining of the country. The northern Britons, however, who had settled themselves there, having intelligence of his design, for the better security of their cattle and other effects, removed them beyond the river Conwey. Prince Anarawd in the mean time was not idle, but drawing together all the strength he could raise, encamped his army near the town of Conwey, at a place called Cymryt, where himself and his men having made gallant resistance against the pressing efforts of the Saxons, obtained a very complete victory.

This battle was by some called Gwaeth Cymryt Conwey, by reason that it was fought in the township of Cymryt, near Conwey; but Prince Anarawd would have it called "Dial Rodri," because he had there revenged the death of his father Rodri.

In this battle Tudwal, Rodri's son, received a wound in the knee, which caused him to be denominated Tudwal Gloff ever after; and for his signal service in this action his brethren bestowed upon him Uchelogoed Gwynedd. The Britons, pursuing their victory, chased the Saxons quite out of Wales into Mercia, where, having burnt and destroyed the borders, they returned home laden with rich spoils, and so took possession of the country betwixt Chester and Conwey, which for a long time after they peaceably enjoyed. Anarawd, to express his thankfulness to God for this great victory, gave very considerable lands and possessions to the collegiate

collegiate churches of Bangor and Clynnoc Vawr in Arfon. After this, those Danes that lay at Fulhenham, near London, crossed the sea to France, and passing to Paris along the river Seine, spoiled the country thereabouts, vanquishing the French that came against them; but in their return towards the sea coast they were met by the Britons of Armorica, who slew the greatest part of them, and the rest, confusedly endeavouring to escape to their ships, were drowned.

It might have been supposed that the several misfortunes the Danes sustained, first at Sandwich, then by King Alfred, and afterwards in France, would have quite drained their number, and utterly have rid Britain from so troublesome an enemy; but, like ill weeds, the more they were rooted up, the faster they grew: the Danes were still supplied from abroad, and if an army was vanquished here, another was sure to come in their room. This the Welsh found to be too true; for not long after this great defeat by the Armorican Britons, the Danes, not able to venture upon these, were resolved to revenge themselves upon their friends of Wales; and therefore landing in North Wales, they cruelly harassed and destroyed the country. Nor is it matter of surprise from whence such a wonderful number of Danes and Normans could come; for the kingdom of Denmark had under it not only Denmark, which is a small country divided by the sea into insulas and peninsulas (as that which joins upon Saxony and Holsatia, called Cymbrica Chersonesus, with the islands of Zealand and Finnen), but also Norway, and the large country of Sweden, reaching to Muscovy, and almost to the North Pole. This country being then scarce known to the world, did, all at once as it were, pour out a vast multitude of people, who, like a sudden storm, unexpectedly over-ran all Europe, with a great portion of Africa. From hence proceeded the Danes who annoyed England, and the Normans who conquered France, both nations being originally derived from the same stock.

The Danes had not appeared in England for some time, A. D. 890.
and therefore they now resolved to take so sure a footing that they could not easily be repulsed. Two hundred and fifty sail of vessels having landed the troops they had on board at Lymene, in Kent, hard by the great forest of Andreslege, they built the castle of Auldre or Apledore. At the same time Hasting, with a fleet of eighty sail, ventured to the Thames mouth, and built the castle of Mydlton,

ton, having first made an oath to King Alfred not to molest him or any of his subjects: but having built the castle of Beamfleet, he thought he had obtained so much strength that there was no necessity of observing the oath he had lately sworn to King Alfred, and therefore invaded the country round about him; but he soon found his mistake, and was forced to retire to his castle, which was quickly pulled down, and his wife and two sons taken prisoners, who, after they had been baptized in the Christian church, were again restored to their father. Upon this Hasting and his Danes departed from England, and proceeded to France, where, laying siege to the city of Limogis, and despairing of a speedy surrender of it, he betook himself to his usual way of dealing sinistrously, and plotted this device to win the town: He feigned himself to be dangerously sick, and sent to the bishop and the consul of the city, desiring of them most earnestly that he might be admitted to the Christian faith, and be baptized before his departure out of this world. The bishop and consul, suspecting no deceit, were very glad, not only to be delivered from the present danger of being besieged, but also to win so great a person to the congregation of Christ. Whereupon a peace being concluded betwixt both nations, Hasting was baptized, the bishop and consul being his godfathers: which ceremony being ended, he was carried back by his soldiers to his ship, in a very infirm condition, as he outwardly pretended. About midnight he caused himself, with his arms about him, to be laid on a bier, and commanded his soldiers to carry their weapons with them under their coats, and so to be ready when he should give them the word. The next day, all things being in readiness, he was solemnly brought by his soldiers, with great clamour and counterfeit mourning, to be interred in the chief church of the city, where the bishop and consul, accompanied by all the most honourable members of the town, came to honour the funeral; but when the bishop had made himself ready to bury the body, and all the citizens were in the church, up starts Hasting with his sword drawn, and killing first the bishop and the consul, afterwards fell in with his armed soldiers upon the naked people, putting all to the sword, and sparing neither age, sex, nor infirmity. Having ransacked the town, he sent messengers to Charles, the French king, to mediate for peace, which he easily obtained, together with the town of Chartres towards the defraying of his charges.[c]

A. D. 891. At this time Hennith ap Bledric, a baron of Wales, died;
893. and two years after, Anarawd Prince of North Wales, with

a

a considerable number of English, marched against his brother Cadelh, and spoiled the countries of Cardigan and Ystradgwy.* At the same time the Danes laid siege to the city of Exeter; and when Alfred had marched to oppose them, they that had continued in the castle of Auldre passed over to Essex, and built another castle at Scobrith, and from thence marched to Budington, seated upon the Severn. When Alfred came near to Exeter, the Danes immediately raised the siege, and betaking themselves to their ships, sailed towards Wales, spoiled the sea-coast thereof, and advanced as far as Buellt.

The Danes at Budington† being informed that King Alfred was marching against them, fled back to their castle in Essex, so that the king was obliged to alter his march, and to direct his forces against Leicester, where a party of Danes was so warmly besieged, that at length they were reduced to such extremity as to compel them to feed upon their horses. The season of the year for action, however, being ended, and the severity of the weather being extreme, Alfred was forced to raise the siege, and to wait the next opportunity for the recovery of the town; but before he A. D. 895. could besiege it again the Danes had quitted it, and, together with those in Northumberland, proceeded by the North Sea to Meresige, an isle in Essex. The next year 896. they entered the Thames, and built a castle twenty miles distant from London, and presuming on its strength, they ventured to spoil and waste the country thereabouts; but they paid very dear for their temerity; for, being accidentally met with, they were completely overthrown, having four of their princes slain upon the spot, and the remainder of their forces being very glad to make their escape to the castle. Upon this Alfred divided the river into three streams, by which stratagem the water became so diminished in the Thames that the Danish ships could not return back into the sea. When the Danes perceived this, and found it impracticable to escape in their ships, they left their wives and children and all their effects in Essex, and so proceeded by land to Enadbryge upon the Severn, and then passing the river, spoiled the countries of Brecknock, Gwentland, and Gwentllwg. Some of them, at the same time, passed over to France; and another body, coasting about Devonshire, destroyed the maritime countries, but being met with by

* Chronicle of Wales.

† A village pleasantly situated on the banks of the Severn, about two miles from Welshpool on the Salop road, now called Buttington.

by the English, lost six of their ships in the conflict that took place.

A. D. 897. The following summer the kingdom of Ireland suffered extremely by locusts, which consumed all the corn and all the grass throughout the whole country; in consequence of which public prayers and fasting were directed for their destruction. These reptiles are common in Africa and other hot regions, but are seldom seen in colder climates; and when they happen to travel so far, they are, as elsewhere, very pestilential and destructive to the country in which they deposit themselves.

900. This year Igmond, with a great number of Danes, landed in Anglesey, and was met with by the Welsh at a place called Molerain, where Merfyn* was slain; though others call it Meilon, and, from the battle fought there, Maes Rhos Meilon. The same year King Alfred died, who directed the translation of the ancient laws of Dyfnwal Moelmut, King of Britain, and the laws of Queen Marsia, out of British into English, and called it Marsian law, which was afterwards called West Saxon law, and observed in part of Mercia, with all the countries south of Thames; the other part of the country having another law called Dane Lex; both of which remained to the time of Edward the Confessor, which latter sovereign out of these two made one law. It is related of King Alfred that he divided the natural day into three parts—the first he set apart for devotion and study, the next for the affairs of the commonwealth, and the third for his own rest and refreshment.

Alfred being dead, Edward, his eldest son, took upon him the crown, which so displeased the ambitious spirit of his brother Adelwulph, that he immediately raised a cruel war against him, and proceeding to Northumberland, stirred up the Danes against his brother Edward. The Danes were glad of the opportunity, which afforded a plausible pretence for rendering themselves masters of the whole island; and therefore Adelwulph was declared king, as well of the Angles as of the Danes, who by this time were grown to be, as it were, one people. Marching then proudly with a very considerable army at his heels, Adelwulph subdued the East Saxons, spoiled the country of Mercia, and passing over the Thames at Crickland, destroyed Brythend, and returned home with very great booty. At the same time Euneth was slain in Arwystly. Edward being informed of his brother's retreat, pursued him eagerly, and, missing him, over-ran and destroyed all the country betwixt Ouse and

* Prince of Powys.

and the Dike of St. Edmund, and then returned home with his whole army, excepting the Kentish men, who being too greedy of plunder, rashly tarried behind. The Danes perceiving the body of the army to be returned, and that a small party still continued to ravage the country, attacked the Kentish men, slew a great number of them, and put the rest to a shameful flight. Nor were the Danes only powerful in England, but they molested and grew prevalent in Ireland: for this year they entered that kingdom, slew A. D. 905. Carmot, king and bishop of all Ireland, a religious and virtuous person, the son of Cukeman; and Kyrnalt, the son of Murgan King of Lagines. The next year died Asser, 906. Archbishop of St. David's, uncle to the famous and learned Asser, surnamed Menevensis; who, being chancellor to his uncle, the archbishop, was sent for by King Alfred to instruct his children, whose life he afterwards wrote, and was made bishop of Shireburn.

Edward, to force his brother from his country, and to revenge the death of the Kentishmen, dispatched an army to Northumberland, which having destroyed the country returned home: upon which the Danes, as a return for this inroad, destroyed a great part of Mercia: but within a short time after, Edward, having raised a very considerable army, gave the Danes battle, overthrew them, and slew their kings Alden and Edelwulph, with a great number of their nobles. This added much to his dominions, which were the more increased and strengthened by the addition of the cities of London and Oxford; which, upon the death of Edelred Duke of Mercia, Edward took into his own hands, permitting his widow Elfleda to enjoy the rest of Edelred's dukedom. Shortly after, Cadelh Prince of South Wales died, leaving three sons—Howel Dha,* or the Good (who 907. succeeded his father), Meyric, and Clydawc. King Edward having obtained so signal a victory over the Danes, and rendered his kingdom for some time quiet, began to build places of strength, which might be serviceable against a future occasion. He built a castle at Hertford, betwixt the rivers Benefic, Minier, and Lige; he also established the borough of Wytham in Essex; and continued some time in Wealdyne, to keep those countries in awe. In spite, however, of all this precaution, the Danes of Leycester and Hampton began the following year to be very troublesome,

slew

* Howel Dha, the Welsh Justinian, was, according to the Triades, ranked with Prydain and Dyfnwal under the appellation of the three good princes of Britain.—In the Triades, Anarawd and his brothers have the appellation of the three diademed princes; they were also called the three bandlet-wearing kings of the Isle of Britain, and the three bandlet-wearing princes.

slew a great number of English at Hotchnorton, and in their return homeward destroyed the country about Oxford. About the same time a considerable fleet from Tydwike, under the command of Uther and Rahald, sailed by the western sea to Wales, and destroyed St. David's; at which place was fought the battle of Dinarth, where Mayloc, the son of Peredur Gam, was slain. After this they entered
A.D. 911. Herefordshire, where, in another encounter, Rahald was slain, and the remains of his troops were compelled to swear they would quit the king's land, and never return any more to England. King Edward, to prevent any future disturbance from such open invaders, caused a strong army to be quartered upon the south side of Severn; but the Danes, notwithstanding all his efforts, entered twice into his country, once at Werd, and then at Portogan, but were each time overthrown by the English. On their departure they proceeded to the Isle of Stepen, whence they were forced by hunger to sail to South Wales, intending to make a considerable prey of that country; but failing of their aim, they were constrained to make the best of their way for Ireland. The next year a party of Danes fought a very severe battle with the Kentish men at Holm, but which party obtained the victory is not certainly known. About
913. the same time, Anarawd Prince of North Wales died, leaving two sons, Edwal Foel and Elis, and some say a third, named Meyric.

EDWAL FOEL.

913. AFTER the death of Anarawd, his eldest son, Edwal Foel, took upon him the government of North Wales, Howel Dha holding the principality of South Wales and Powys. At this time a great comet appeared in the heavens. The same year the city of Chester, which had been destroyed by the Danes, was, by the procurement of Elfleda, new built and repaired, as the ancient records of that city testify. This in the ancient copy is called Leycester, by an easy mistake for Legecestria or Chester, called by the Romans Legionum Cestria. The next summer the men of Dublin laid waste the Isle of Anglesey,† and soon after Clydawc, the son of Cadelh, was unnaturally slain by his brother

* He married the daughter of his uncle Mervyn, the late Prince of Powys.—Brit. Ant. Revived, by Mr. R. Vaughan, of Hengwrt, f. 4.

† Welsh Chron. pp. 45-47.

brother Meyric, about the same time that the Danes were completely overthrown by the English at Tottenhale. But Elfleda did not long survive the rebuilding of the city of Chester. She was a woman of singular virtues, and one that greatly strengthened the kingdom of Mercia by building towns and castles against the incursions of the Danes; as Strengat and Bruge, by the forest of Morph, Tamworth, Stafford, Edelburgh, Cherenburgh, Wadeburgh, and Runcofe; after which she entered with her whole army into Wales, won Brecknock, and took the queen with thirty-three of her attendants prisoners; which affair in Welsh is called "Gwaith y Ddinas Newydd," or the Battle of the New City. From thence she marched for Derby, which she took from the Danes, losing, however, four of her chief commanders in the action.

The occasion of these two expeditions, according to some, was this: Huganus, Lord of West Wales, perceiving King Edward to be wholly engaged by the Danish war, gathered an army of Britons, and entering England, destroyed the king's country. Upon the news of this reaching Elfleda, she came to Wales with a great army, fought with the Welsh at Brecknock, and putting Huganus to flight, took his wife and some of his men prisoners, whom she carried with her to Mercia. Huganus being thus defeated, fled to Derby, and being there kindly received, joined himself with the king's enemies, the Danes. Elfleda being informed of that, followed him with her army; but in storming the gates of the town, had four of her best officers killed by Huganus. But Gwyane, Lord of the Isle of Ely, her steward, setting fire to the gates, furiously attacked the Britons and entered the town; upon which Huganus, perceiving himself over-matched, chose rather to fall by the sword than cowardly to yield himself to a woman. The next year Elfleda laid siege to the city of Leicester, which was quickly surrendered, and the Danes therein completely subdued. The fame of these several actions being noised abroad, her neighbours became fearful and timorous; and the Yorkshiremen voluntarily did her homage, and proffered their service. She died at Tamworth, after eight years' rule over Mercia, and lies buried at Gloucester, by St. Peter's.

After the death of Elfleda, King Edward most ungratefully disinherited her daughter, Alfwyen, and entering into Mercia, took all the province into his own hands, upon pretence that she, without his knowledge (whom her mother had appointed her guardian), had privily promised and contracted

tracted marriage with Raynald King of the Danes. This unjust and unnatural action of King Edward's possibly brought upon him those great troubles which afterwards ensued. For Leofred, a Dane, and Gruffydh ap Madoc, brother-in-law to the Prince of West Wales, came from Ireland with a great army to Snowdon, and intending to bring all Wales and the marches thereof to their subjection, over-ran and subdued all the country to Chester before King Edward was informed of their arrival: whereat being much offended, and unwilling to call upon his subjects for aid, he vowed that himself and his sons, with their own followers only, would be revenged upon Leofred and Gruffydh; and thereupon marching to Chester, took the city from them. Then he separated his army into two divisions, whereof he and his son Athelstane led the first, Edmund and Edred the second, and followed the enemy so close, that he overtook them at the forest of Walewode (now Sherwode), where Leofred and Gruffydh turned upon them so fiercely that the king at first was in some danger; until Athelstane stepped in and wounded the Dane in the arm so severely, that being no longer able to hold his spear, he was taken prisoner, and committed to the custody of Athelstane. In the mean time, Edmund and Edred, encountering with Gruffydh, slew him, and brought his head to their father; and Leofred's head being likewise cut off, they were both set up in the city of Chester: and then Edward, together with his sons, triumphantly returned home. King Edward,
A. D. 924, having built Glademutham, soon afterwards died at Farandon, and his son Alfred expired at the same time at Oxford, and they were both buried at Winchester.

Edward being dead, his illegitimate son Athelstane, who had given evidence of great talents, was advanced to the throne; being the worthiest prince of the Saxon blood that ever reigned. He overcame Cudfryd, father of Raynald, King of the Danes, at York, and the country being invaded by Hawlaf, King of Ireland, who with all the power of the Scots and Danes marched against him, Athelstane gave him battle at Brimestbury, and obtained a signal victory, King Hawlaf, together with the King of the Scots, and five Kings of the Danes and Normans, being slain upon the spot; so that the whole country of England and Scotland became subject to him, a degree of power which none of his predecessors had attempted to possess.

933. Sometime after, Owen, the son of Gruffydh, was slain by the men of Cardigan: and then Athelstane, entering with his army into Wales, forced the princes thereof to consent

to

to pay a yearly tribute of £20 in gold, £300 in silver, 200* head of cattle; which, however, was not observed, as appears by the laws of Howel Dha, wherein it is appointed, that the Prince of Aberffraw should pay no more to the King of London than £66 tribute; and that the Princes of Dinefawr and Powys should pay the like sum to the Prince of Aberffraw. King Athelstane was not less terrible abroad, than he was reverenced at home, the Kings of France and Norway sending him very great and costly presents, to obtain his favour and to ensure his good-will.

This year, Euneth, the son of Clydawc, and Meyric, the son of Cadelh, died. At the same time, King Athelstane removed the Britons who lived at Exeter and the neighbouring country into Cornwall, bounding them by the river Cambria (now Tamar), as the Britons of Wales with the Wye. Not long after, the noble Prince Athelstane died, to the great and inexpressible sorrow of all his subjects, and was buried at Malmesbury. He was succeeded by his brother Edmund, not inferior to him in courage, and preferable by right of nativity, being born in wedlock. In the first year of his reign, he gave a very considerable blow to the Danes, took from them the towns of Leicester, Derby, Stafford, Lincoln, and Nottingham; on which Aulate, King of the Danes, finding it impracticable to withstand the force of King Edmund, desired peace, and withal to be initiated into the Christian Faith; this was granted, and all the Danes received baptism, King Edmund standing godfather at the font: after which, both parties concluded peace, and Edmund honourably returned to West Saxony. A.D. 936. 939.

The same year died Abloic, chief King of Ireland: and the year following, Cadelh, the son of Arthual, a nobleman of Wales, was, for reasons not known, imprisoned by the English. To revenge this indignity, Edwal Foel and his brother Elis gathered their forces together and fought against the English and Danes, but were both unhappily slain.†

This Edwal Foel had six sons,—Meyric, Ievaf, Iago, Conan, Edwal Fychan, and Roderic: and his brother Elis had issue Conan, and a daughter named Trawst,‡ the mother of Conan ap Sitsylht, Gruffydh ap Sitsylht, and Blethyn ap Confyn, which two last were afterwards Princes of Wales.

HOWEL

* According to Warrington's History of Wales (vol. i. f. 235), "two thousand five hundred head of cattle.—See Brompton's Chron. p. 838, with respect to the tribute, with the difference only of doubling the number of cattle; Stowe's Chron. p. 82; Welsh Chron. p. 50; Grafton's Chron. p. 149, published Ann. 1569.

† Welsh Chron. 51.

‡ Welsh Chron. p. 51—British Antiq. Revived by Vaughan of Hengwrt, p. 14.

HOWEL DHA.

A.D. 940. HOWEL DHA had been for a considerable time Prince of South Wales and Powys, which government he had so justly and discreetly conducted, that upon the death of Edwal Foel he was preferred to the entire Principality of Wales, notwithstanding Edwal had left behind him several sons, who at first murmured at and resented the election of Howel Dha. The first thing he did was to enact wholesome laws for the benefit of his country, which laws were in force in Wales until the time of Edward I. when the Welsh received the laws of England, yet not so generally, but that in some places these continued long after, and are still to be read in the Welsh and Latin tongues: for Howel Dha, perceiving the laws and customs of his country to have given rise to great abuse, sent for the Archbishop of Menevia, with the rest of the bishops and chief clergy, to the number of one hundred and forty, and all the barons and nobles of Wales, and ordered that six of the wisest and most esteemed persons in every commote should be cited before him, at his palace, called y Ty Gwyn ar Taf,* or the White House upon the river Taf. Thither coming himself, he remained with his nobles, prelates, and subjects for all the Lent, using prayers and fasting, and imploring the assistance and direction of God's Holy Spirit, that he might reform the laws and customs of the country of Wales, to the honour of God and the peaceable government of his subjects. Towards the end of Lent he chose out of that assembly twelve of the wisest and gravest, and persons of the greatest experience, to whom he added Blegored,† a man of singular learning, and one eminently versed in the laws. To these he gave commission to examine the ancient laws and customs of Wales, and to collect out of them what was requisite towards the government of the country; accordingly they retained those that were wholesome and profitable, expounded those that were doubtful and ambiguous, and abrogated such as were superfluous or injurious classes.‡ The laws thus framed were distinguished into three classes: the first concerned the order and regulation of the king's household

* Belonging to King Howel.—Welsh Chron. p. 53.

† Blegored or Blegwryd was Chancellor of Llandaff, and brother of Morgan, King of Morganwg, and was considered the greatest scholar of his time in Wales.

‡ The system was formed on the basis of the ancient national laws, said to have been originally framed by Moelmutius, who reigned in Britain 441 years before Christ.—Holinshead, p. 177.

household and court; the second the affairs of the country and commonwealth; and the last had regard to special customs belonging to particular persons and places;—all which being publicly proclaimed and generally allowed, Prince Howel ordered three copies to be written; one for his own use, another to be laid up at his palace of Aberffraw, and the third at Dinefawr; so that the three provinces of Wales might have easy recourse to either of them, when occasion required: and for the better observation of these laws he caused the Archbishop of St. David to denounce sentence of excommunication against all such of his subjects as would not obey the same.

Within a short time after, Howel, to omit nothing that might give countenance or authority to these laws, accompanied by Lambert, Archbishop of St. David, Mordaf, Bishop of Bangor, and Chebur of St. Asaph, and thirteen of the most prudent and learned persons in Wales, took a journey to Rome, where the said laws being recited before the Pope, were by his Holiness ratified and confirmed: after which, Howel, with all his retinue, returned home to his country.*

The particulars of these laws are too numerous to be here inserted;† but it may be observed, that all matters of inheritance of land were determined and adjudged by the prince in person; or, if sick, by his special deputy; and that upon view of the same land, citing together the freeholders of that place, two elders of his council, the chief justice always attending in the court, the ordinary judge of the country where the land lay, and the priest. The method of their proceeding was in this manner:

The prince sat in his judicial seat above the rest of the court, with an elder on each hand, next to whom the freeholders on both sides, who upon that account were probably called Uchelwyr. Below the prince, at a certain distance, sat the chief justice, having the priest on his right hand and the ordinary judge of the country concerned upon the left. The court being thus formed, the plaintiff with his advocate, champion, and Rhingylh or sergeant, stood on the left side of the court, as did the defendant in like manner on the right: and lastly, the witnesses on both sides appeared, and stood at the lower end of the hall, directly opposite to the chief justice, to testify the best of their knowledge in the matter in debate. After taking the depositions of the witnesses, and a full pleading of the cause

* Welsh Chron. p. 54

† Vide Topographical Notices in vol. 2 of this work.

cause in open court, upon notice given by the sergeant, the chief justice, the priest, and the ordinary judge, withdrew themselves for a while, to consult of the matter; and then, *secundum allegata et probata*, brought in their verdict. Whereupon the prince, after consultation had with the elders that sat next him, gave definite sentence; excepting the cause was so obscure and intricate that the justice of it could not be made apparent, and then the two champions put an end to the controversy by combat.

Whilst Howel Dha was thus regulating the customs, and meliorating the laws and constitutions of Wales, Aulafe and Reginald, Kings of the Danes, forcibly entered the country of King Edmund, who being annoyed by their incessant hostility, gathered his forces together, and (as some say), by the help of Lhewelyn ap Sitsyllht, who was afterwards Prince of Wales, followed them to Northumberland, and having overcome them in a pitched battle, utterly drove them out of his kingdom, and remained a whole year in those parts to regulate and bring that country to quiet subjection: but finding it impracticable to reduce the inhabitants of Cumberland to any peaceable condition, he spoiled and wasted the country, and gave it up to Malcolm King of Scotland, upon condition that he should send him succours in his wars whenever demanded of him.

A. D. 942. In the mean time the Welsh had but little occasion to rejoice; Hubert Bishop of St. David, Marclois Bishop of
944. Bangor, and Ussa the son of Lhafyr, died: and shortly after, the English entering into Wales with a very strong army, put the inhabitants into a great consternation; but being satisfied with the destruction and spoil of Strat Clwyd, they returned home without doing any more mischief. At the same time Conan the son of Elis narrowly escaped being treacherously put to death by poison; and Everus Bishop of St. David died. The next year Edmund King of England was unhappily slain upon St. Augustine's day; but the manner of his death is variously stated; some say, that discovering a noted thief, who was outlawed, sitting among his guests, being transported with indignation against so daring a villain, he ran upon him very furiously: the outlaw expecting nothing less than death, determined to die revenged, and therefore with a short dagger gave the king a mortal wound in the breast. Others report, that as the king would have rescued a servant of his from an officer that had arrested him, he was unwittingly and unhappily slain by the same. However his death happened, he lies buried at Glastonbury, and his brother Edred was crowned King of

of England, who, as soon as he had entered upon his government, made an expedition against Scotland and Northumberland, which being subdued, he received fealty and homage (by oath) of the Scots and Northumbrians; an undertaking that they did not long observe. In a short time, Howel Dha, after a long and peaceable reign over Wales, died, much lamented by all his subjects, being a prince of a religious and virtuous inclination, and one that ever regarded the welfare and prosperity of his people. He left issue,—Owen, Run, Roderic, and Edwyn, betwixt whom and the sons of Edwal Foel,* late Prince of North Wales, great wars and commotions subsequently arose as to the chief rule and government of Wales. A. D. 948.

The sons of Howel Dha, as some writers record, were these, *viz.* Owen who did not long survive his father, Eineon, Meredyth, Dyfnwal, and Rodri, the two last of whom, as is believed, were slain in the battle fought near Lhanrwst in the year 952, by the sons of Edwal Foel; Run, Lord of Cardigan, who was slain before the death of his father; Conan y Cwn, who possessed Anglesey; Edwin, who was also slain, as is supposed, in the beforementioned battle. There was also another battle fought betwixt Howel and Conan ap Edwal Foel for the Isle of Anglesey, wherein Conan fell; and Gruffydh his son renewing the war, was likewise overcome; and so Cyngar, a powerful person, being driven out of the island, Howel enjoyed quiet possession thereof, and of the rest of Gwynedh. It is conjectured that this Howel Dha was chosen governor of Wales, during the minority of his uncle Anarawd's sons, who, at the death of their father, were too young to manage the principality; which he kept till his return from Rome, at which time, Edwal Foel being come of age, he resigned to him the kingdom of Gwynedh or North Wales, together with the sovereignty of all Wales. Before which time Howel is styled Brenhin Cymry oll, that is, King of all Wales, as is seen in the preface to that body of laws compiled by him.

IEVAF AND IAGO,

THE SONS OF EDWAL FOEL.

AFTER the death of Howel Dha, his sons divided betwixt them the principalities of South Wales and Powys; laying no claim to North Wales, though their father had been a general Prince of all Wales. But Ievaf

* Welsh Chron. p. 58.

and Iago, the sons of Edwal Foel, having put by their elder brother Meyric,* as a person incapable of government, and being dissatisfied with the rule of North Wales only, imagined that the principality of all Wales was their right, as descending from the elder house; which the sons of Howel Dha denied them. Indeed, they had been wrongfully kept out of the government of North Wales during the reign of Howel; in whose time the recovery of their own was impracticable, by reason that, for his moderation and other good qualities, he had attracted to himself the universal love of all the Welsh. But now, he being gone, they were resolved to revenge the injury received from him upon his sons: and upon a small pretence, they endeavoured to reduce the whole country of Wales to their own subjection. Ievaf and Iago were indeed descended from the elder branch; but since Roderic the Great conferred the principality of South Wales upon his younger son Cadelh, the father of Howel Dha, it was but just his sons should enjoy what had legally descended to them from their father: ambition, however, seldom gives place to equity; and therefore, right or wrong, Ievaf and Iago would have a contest for South Wales, which they entered with a great army; and being opposed, they obtained a victory over Owen and his brethren the sons of Howel, at the hills of Carno.†

A.D. 950. The next year the two brothers entered twice into South Wales, destroyed and wasted Dyfet, and slew Dwnwalhon
951. Lord of the country: shortly after which, Roderic, the third
952. son of Howel Dha, died. His brethren perceiving the folly of standing only upon the defensive, mustered all their forces together, and entering North Wales, marched as far as Lhanrwst upon the river Conwy; where Ievaf and Iago met them. A very sanguinary battle ensued upon this, and a great number were slain on both sides, among whom were Anarawd the son of Gwyriad, the son of Roderic the Great; and Edwyn the son of Howel Dha. But victory favoured the brothers Ievaf and Iago; so that the Princes of South Wales were obliged to retire to Cardiganshire, whither they were warmly pursued; and that country was
953. severely harassed by fire and sword.‡ The next year Merfyn was unhappily drowned; and shortly after Congelach King of Ireland was slain.

The Scots and Northumbrians having lately sworn allegiance to King Edred, he had scarcely returned to his own country, before Aulafe, with a great army, landed in North-

* Welsh Chron. pp. 59 and 60. † Welsh Chron. pp. 59 and 60.
‡ Welsh Chron. pp. 60 and 61.

Northumberland, and was with much rejoicing received by the inhabitants. Before, however, he could secure himself in the government, he was ignominiously banished the country; and the Northumbrians elected one Hircius, the son of Harold, for their king. But to shew the inconstancy of an unsettled multitude, they soon grew weary of Hircius, and after a period of three years expelled him, and voluntarily submitted themselves to Edred, who, after he had reigned eight years, died, and was buried at Winchester. To him succeeded Edwin the son of Edmund, a man so immoderately given to the gratification of his passions that he forcibly married another man's wife; for which, and other irregularities, his subjects, after four years' reign, set up his brother Edgar, who was crowned in his stead; which so much grieved Edwin, that he soon ended his days. The summer, that same year, proved so extremely hot, that it A. D. 958. caused a dreadful plague in the following spring, which swept away a great number of people; before which, Gwgan the son of Gwyriad the son of Roderic died. At this time, Ievaf and Iago forcibly managed the government of all Wales, and acted according to their own pleasure, no one daring to confront or resist them. But notwithstanding all their power, the sons of Abloic King of Ireland, ventured to land in Anglesey; and having burnt Holyhead, wasted the country of Llyn. The sons of Edwyn the son of Colhoyn, also wasted and ravaged all the country to Towyn, where they were intercepted and slain. About the same 961. time died Meyric the son of Cadfan, Rytherch bishop of St. David's, and Cadwalhon ap Owen. Not long after, the country of North Wales was cruelly wasted by the army of 965. Edgar King of England; the occasion of which invasion was the non-payment of the tribute that the king of Aberffraw, by the laws of Howel Dha, was obliged to pay to the King of London. At length a peace was concluded upon condition that the Prince of North Wales, instead of money, should pay to the King of England the tribute of 300 wolves yearly,* which animal was then very pernicious and destructive to England and Wales. This tribute being duly performed for two years, the third year there were none to be found in any part of the Island; so that afterwards the Prince of North Wales became exempt from paying any acknowledgment to the King of England.† The terror apprehended from the English, being by these means 966. vanished;

* Stowe's Chron. p. 83, printed at London, A. D. 1614.—Fabian's Chron. p. 249.

† William Malmesbury, p. 59; Fabian, p. 249; Stowe's Chron. p. 83; Welsh Chron. p. 62 (excepting only the number).

vanished, there threatened another cloud from Ireland; for the Irish being animated by their late expedition, landed again in Anglesey; and having slain Roderic the
A. D. 967. son of Edwal Foel, they destroyed Aberffraw. When this danger was over, Ievaf and Iago, who had jointly and amicably, till now, managed the government of Wales from the death of Howel Dha, began to quarrel and disagree between themselves; and Iago having forcibly laid hands
968. on his brother Ievaf, consigned him to perpetual imprisonment. These animosities between the two brothers gave occasion and opportunity to Owen prince of South Wales to aggrandize himself, by taking possession of the country
969. of Gwyr.* And to augment the miseries of the Welsh at this time, Mactus the son of Harold, with an army of Danes, landed in the isle of Anglesey, and spoiled Penmon.† King Edgar was so indulgent to the Danes, that he permitted them to inhabit through all England; insomuch that at length they became as numerous and as powerful as the English themselves; and they gave way to such lewd courses of debauchery and drunkenness, that very great mischiefs ensued thereupon. The king, to reform this immoderate sottishness, enacted a law, that every one should drink by measure, and a mark was stamped upon every
970. vessel, to denote how far it should be filled. Harold having taken Penmon, subjected to himself the whole isle of Anglesey, which however he did not keep long, being forced to quit the same, and to return home; as did the fleet of king Alfred, which he had sent to subdue Caerlheon upon Usc;
971. and now being rid of the English and Danes, the Welsh
972. began to raise commotions among themselves. Ievaf continued still in prison, and to rescue him, his son Howel raised a body of forces, and marched against his uncle Iago, who being vanquished in fight, was forced to quit the country. Howel having obtained the victory, took his eldest uncle, Meyric, the son of Edwal, prisoner, and having directed both his eyes to be put out he was placed in prison, where in a woful condition he soon afterwards died, leaving two sons, Edwal and Ionafal; the first of which lived to be Prince of Wales, and to revenge upon the posterity of Howel, the unnatural barbarity exercised towards his father. But though Howel delivered his father from his long and tedious imprisonment,‡ yet he did not think fit to restore him to his principality; for whether by age or infirmity he was incapable, or otherwise, Howel took upon him the sole government

* Gwyr, in Glamorganshire.—Welsh Chron. p. 62. † Ibid.
‡ Welsh Chron. pp. 62, 65.

government of Wales, which he kept and maintained during his lifetime, but afterwards it descended to his brethren; for Ievaf had issue, besides this Howel, Meyric, Ievaf, and Cadwallhan; all three men of great repute and esteem.

About this time died Morgan Hên,* in his younger days called Morgan Mawr, being an hundred years old, having lived fifty years after the death of his wife Elen, daughter of Roderic the Great, by whom he had one son called Owen. Morgan was a valiant and a victorious prince, and well beloved of his subjects; but sometime before his death, Owen, the son of Prince Howel Dha, laid claim to Ystradwy and Ewy (called the two Sleeves of Gwent Uwchcoed), being the right by inheritance of Morgan, and seized upon them to his own use. The matter, however, through the mediation of the clergy and nobility, being by both parties referred to the decision of Edgar King of England, it was by him adjudged, that the said lands did of right belong to Morgan, and to the diocese of Lhandaff; and that Owen ap Howel Dha had wrongfully possessed himself of them. The charter of the said award was made before the archbishops, bishops, earls, and barons of England and Wales, as may be seen at Lhandaff, in an old manuscript called *y Cwtta Cyfarwydd o Forgannwg*. And there is somewhat to the same purport in the old book of Lhandaff; only the mistake in both is, that they make Howel Dha† the intruder into the said lands, who had been dead at least twenty years before king Edgar began his reign.

HOWEL

* Also called Morgan Mwynvawr, or Morgan the Courteous. He was of the stock of one of the royal tribes of Wales. He is ranked in the Triades* with Rhûn and Arthur as the three blood-stained warriors of Britain; and is distinguished with Gwaethvoed and Elystan under the appellation of the three band-wearing princes, because they wore bands as insignia of state, instead of crowns, like the primitive christians.

* The book of Triades, in British *Trioedd Ynys Prydain*, or "Threes of the Island of Britain," seems to have been written about the year 650, and some parts of it collected out of the most ancient monuments in the kingdom. The Triades have been always quoted by our British poets from age to age. It is called by some writers, and by the translator of Camden, "The Book of Triplicities." The Britons, as well as other nations of old, had a particular veneration for odd numbers, and especially for that of Three. Their most ancient poetry consists of three-lined stanzas, called *Englyn Milwr*, "The Warrior's Verse." The most remote history is divided into sections; being combinations of some three similar events. All men of note, whether famous or infamous, were classed together by threes: virtues and vices were tripled together in the same manner: and the Druids conveyed their instructions in moral and natural philosophy to their people in sentences of three parts.—Royal Tribes.

† Saxon Laws, published by Wilkins, p. 125, from Lord Lyttleton's Life, Henry II. vol. 2, p. 89.—It appears, however, that during the reign of Howel Dha, this prince had dispossessed Morgan Hên, the Lord of Glamorgan, of certain districts in that country, and that this dispute was tried by Edgar King of England in a full court of prelates and nobility of England and Wales, when the lands in dispute were adjudged to Morgan Hên and his heirs.—Spelman's Concilia, p. 414.

HOWEL AP IEVAF.

A. D. 973. HOWEL, after he had expelled his uncle Iago, and forced him to quit his own dominions, took upon himself the government of Wales,* in right of his father, who, though alive, yet by reason of his years, declined it. About the same time Dwnwallhon, Prince of Stradclwyd, took his journey for Rome; and Edwallhon, son of Owen Prince of South Wales, died. But the English received a greater blow by the death of King Edgar, who was a prince of excellent qualities, both warlike and religious, and one that founded several monasteries and religious houses, and particularly at Bangor: for Iago ap Edwal having fled to King Edgar, prevailed so far with him, that he brought an army into North Wales to restore him to his right. Being advanced as far as Bangor, he was honourably received by Howel, who, at his request, was contented his uncle Iago should have a share in the government, as he had in his father Ievaf's time. Then Edgar founded a new church at Bangor, on the south-side of the Cathedral, which he dedicated to the blessed Virgin Mary; and confirmed the ancient liberties of that see, and bestowed lands and gifts upon it; after which, with Howel and Iago in his company, he marched towards Chester, where met him, by appointment, six other kings, *viz.* Kenneth King of the Scots, Malcolm King of Cumberland, Macon King of Man, and Dyfnwal, Sifrethus, and Ithel, three British kings. These eight princes having done homage and sworn fealty to him, entered with King Edgar into his barge, and rowed him, four on each side, from his palace to the church or monastery of St. John the Baptist, and divine service being ended, in like state rowed him back again.† To King Edgar succeeded his son Edward, surnamed the younger; who, after four years reign, was treacherously slain through the treason of his step-mother Elfrida, to make room for her own son Edelred, upon pretence of whose minority, being a child of only seven years, she might have the management

* Welsh Chron. p. 64.

† Selden's Mare Clausum, p. 1315.—Brompton's Chron. p. 869.—Matth. Westm. p. 287.

A. D. 975.—At this period Dunwallon, Prince of the Strath-Clwyd Britons, who had settled in North Wales, intimidated by the cruel ravages of the Danes, or influenced by the pious spirit of the age, retired to Rome, and engaged in a religious life. On his retreat that small state was re-united to the kingdom of North Wales.—Humffrey Lhuyd, p. 32.

management of the kingdom in her own hands. Whilst the English were in this wavering and unsettled condition, Eineon, the son of Owen King of South Wales, the second time entered the country of Gwyr, and, having spoiled and wasted it, returned home again. This, though it was a very great affront to Howel Prince of North Wales, yet he thought it most convenient to leave unnoticed, being then warmly engaged against the aiders and abettors of his uncle Iago; and marching against them with a numerous army, consisting of Welsh and English, pursued them to Lhyn and Kelynnoc Vawr, the very extremity of Wales;* where, after cruelly ravaging the country and miserably harassing the inhabitants, Iago was at last taken prisoner; but he was generously received by Howel, who granted him the enjoyment of his portion of the country peaceably for his life. Howel did not deal so kindly with his uncle Edwal Fychan, the son of Edwal Foel, who, for some reason not known, was slain by him. It may be, that being in a manner secure of his uncle Iago, he was apprehensive that Edwal Fychan would put in a claim to the principality, and therefore he judged it convenient to remove this obstacle in time, and to send him to seek for it in another world. For nothing has been the cause of greater injustice and inhumanity in princes than a jealousy and apprehension of rivals and pretenders to their government, to prevent which they often sacrifice every thing that is just and legal, so that the person offending be removed out of the way. Though Howel had murdered his uncle Edwal Fychan, he could not remove all disputes and pretensions as to North Wales: for at that same time that he was employed in this unnatural transaction, Cystenyn Dhû, or Constantine the Black, son to Iago (then prisoner to Howel), having hired an army of Danes, under the command of Godfryd the son of Harold, marched against his cousin Howel, and entering North Wales, destroyed Anglesey and Lhyn; whereupon Howel, having drawn his forces together, fell upon them at a place called Gwyath Hirbarth, where the Danes received a very great overthrow, and Constantine, the son of Iago, was slain.† Another army of Danes, however, fared better in England: having landed at and spoiled Southampton, they over-ran the countries of Devon and Cornwall, burnt the town of Bodmin, whereby the cathedral church of St. Petrokes, with the bishop's palace, were laid in ashes; by reason of which disaster the bishop's see was translated to St.

A.D. 976.

979.

* Carnarvonshire. † Welsh Chron. p. 65.

St. Germain's, where it continued until the uniting thereof to Crediton. Within a while after, St. Dunstan, archbishop of Canterbury, died, a pious and religious man, who foretold very great and almost insupportable calamities that the English should endure by the cruel outrages of the Danes.

A.D. 981. Godfryd, the son of Harold, being highly chagrined at the complete route he received of Howel in the quarrel of Constantine, was resolved to recover his credit, and to revenge himself of the Welsh; and accordingly he landed with a powerful army in West Wales, where, after he had spoiled the land of Dyfed, with the church of St. David's, he fought the famous battle of Llanwanoc. Harold being forced upon this to retire and forsake the country, the fol-

982. lowing year Duke Alfred, with a considerable number of English, came to supply his room and to conquer the Welsh; but he obtained as little advantage or honour as Harold in this expedition; for after he had laid waste and destroyed the town of Brecknock, with some part of South Wales, he was completely vanquished, and his army almost totally cut off by the troops of Eineon, the son of Owen Prince of South Wales, and Howel Prince of North Wales, who had joined their forces against him.* The Welsh, hav-

983. ing now quite disabled the Danes and the English, began to adopt their old courses—to make use of their prosperity and quietness from abroad, for quarrelling and creating disturbances at home. The inhabitants of Gwentland † imagined themselves very strong and powerful, and therefore endeavoured to shake off their allegiance to their prince, and to set up one of their own making. Owen, Prince of South Wales, to subdue the rebellious humour of these seditious and turbulent people, sent his son Eineon to persuade them to obedience; but a distracted multitude, when broken loose, is not to be worked upon by arguments, which Eineon fatally experienced, who was so far from persuading them to their allegiance by fair means, that they set upon him, and thinking they had him in their possession who was next to succeed, put him at once to death; and thus most ignobly fell this worthy prince, who, in his father's time, was the only support of his country, being an able and a valiant commander, and one skilfully experienced in the art and discipline of war. He had issue two sons, Edwyn and Tewdwr Mawr, or Theodore the Great, from whose loins several Princes of South Wales descended.‡ Howel Prince of

* Welsh Chron. p. 66.

† Comprehending parts of the present counties of Monmouth and Hereford.

‡ Welsh Chron. p. 66.

of North Wales did not, however, regard this dissension and rebellion in South Wales, and therefore took opportunity to strengthen and multiply his army, with which he marched the next year for England, intending to revenge the incursions and invasions of the English upon Wales, and to destroy and waste their country; but having entered into England, he was presently encountered, upon which, being resolved either to return victoriously or to die courageously, he exerted his prowess, but in the action was slain,* leaving no issue to succeed him in the principality, though in some ancient genealogies he is reputed to have had a son called Conan y Cwn.

CADWALHON AP IEVAF.

HOWEL, the son of Ievaf, had for a long time enjoyed the principality of North Wales, more by main force and usurpation, than any right of succession he could pretend to it: for Ionafal and Edwal the sons of Meyric, the eldest son of Edwal Foel, were living, and through their father had been rejected as being unfit for government, yet that was no reason to deprive them of their right. Indeed, Howel could set up no other right or title, than that his father Ievaf had been prince of North Wales before him, and this he thought sufficient to maintain his possession against the rightful heir, who was unable to oppose or molest his wrongful usurpation; but Howel being slain in this rash expedition against the English, and leaving no issue, his brother Cadwalhon thought he might rightfully take upon him the government of North Wales, seeing his father and his brother had without any molestation enjoyed the same. However, to make his title secure, he thought fit to remove all those who might create any dispute concerning his right of succession, and to that end, deemed it expedient to make away his cousins Ionafal and Edwal the lawful heirs; the first of whom he put to death accordingly, but Edwal being aware of his intention, privately made his escape, and so prevented his wicked design. This unnatural dealing with his cousins Ionafal and Edwal cost Cadwalhon not only his life, but the loss of his principality, and was the utter ruin of his father's house; for he had scarce enjoyed his government one year, when Meredith the son of A. D. 985.
Owen

* Welsh Chron. p. 66.

Owen prince of South Wales entered into North Wales, slew Cadwalhon and his brother Meyric,* the only remains of the house of Ievaf, and, under the pretence of conquest, possessed himself of the whole country. Here we may observe and admire the wisdom of Providence, in permitting wrong and oppression for some time to flourish and wax great, and afterwards, by secret and hidden methods, restoring the posterity of the right and lawful heir to the just and pristine estate of his ancestors: for after the death of Edwal Foel, Meyric, who by right of birth was legally to succeed, was not only deprived of his just and rightful inheritance, but had his eyes most inhumanly put out, and being condemned to perpetual imprisonment, through grief at being so barbarously treated, quickly ended his days; but though his brothers Ievaf and Iago, and Howel and Cadwalhon the sons of Ievaf, successively enjoyed the principality of North Wales, yet not one died naturally or escaped the revenge of Meyric's ejection. Ievaf was imprisoned by his brother Iago, and he, with his son Constantine, by Howel the son of Ievaf, and afterwards Howel fell by the hands of the English, and his brethren Cadwalhon and Meyric were slain by Meredith ap Owen. On the other hand, Edwal ap Meyric, who was right heir of North Wales after the death of his brother Ionafal, escaped the snare intended by Cadwalhon; and Meredith ap Owen having for some time left North Wales exposed to its enemies, because he had enough to do to preserve South Wales, Edwal was received by the men of North Wales as their true prince.

MEREDITH AP OWEN.

A.D. 987. MEREDITH having defeated and slain Cadwalhon and his brother Meyric, the only seeming pretenders to the principality of North Wales, took upon himself the rule and government of it:† but before he was well confirmed in his dominions, Godfryd the son of Harold a third time entered into the isle of Anglesey, and having taken Lhyarch the son of Owen with 2000 men prisoners, most cruelly put out the eyes of Lhyarch, which struck such a terror into Prince Meredith, that, with the rest of his army, he forthwith made his escape and fled to Cardigan. This loss to the

* Welsh Chron. p. 67.

† Meredith ruled in Powys in right of his mother.—British Antiq. revived by Vaughan, of Hengwrt, pp. 5, 14.

the Welsh was the same year seconded by another, but of another sort; for there happened such a great and unusual murrain, that the principal part of the cattle of Wales perished. Nor were the English at this time free from adversities and troubles, for the Danes landed again in England with several armies, and at Westport and Witest gave two English lords, Godan and Britchwould, such a defeat, that the king was forced to buy his peace, with the payment of 10,000 pounds, which was termed Dane Gelt. Within a short time after, King Edelred violated the peace himself, and prepared a great fleet, thinking to vanquish the Danes at sea; but it proved otherwise, all his ships being either destroyed or taken, together with the Admiral, Alfric Earl of Mercia. The Danes being animated with this victory, sailed up the mouth of the Humber, and landing in Yorkshire, spoiled and destroyed the cities of York and Lindsey; but in their march through Northumberland, were routed and put to flight by Godwyn and Fridgist, two English generals who were sent to oppose them. The same time Anlaf King of Norway, and Swane of Denmark, with 94 gallies, sailed up the Thames and besieged London, which the citizens so bravely defended, that the Danes at length thought it best to raise the siege; but though they could effect nothing against the city, yet the country was at their mercy, and therefore leaving their ships, they landed and wasted with fire and sword all Kent, Essex, Sussex, Surry, and Hampshire; wherefore King Edelred, instead of manly opposition in the field, sent ambassadors to treat about another payment, and so the Danes being satisfied with a great sum of money and victuals, lay quiet that winter at Southampton. Upon this composition, Anlaf was invited by Edelred, and royally entertained, and being dismissed with very many rich presents, he promised upon oath to depart the kingdom and never to molest it any more, which condition he faithfully performed.

Whilst the English and the Danes were thus for a time at peace, Ievaf the son of Edwal, having spent for several years a retired and a private life, died;* and was quickly followed by Owen the son of Howel Dhâ Prince of South Wales.† This Owen had three sons, Eineon, who in his father's time was slain by the rebels of Gwentland, Lhywarch who had his eyes put out by Godfryd the son of Harold the Dane, and Prince Meredith, who had already conquered North Wales, and now upon his father's death took possession also of South Wales, without any regard to the A. D. 987.

* Welsh Chron. p. 70. † Ibid.

the rights of Edwyn and Theodore the sons of Eineon his elder brother. But upon his advancement to his new principality, he narrowly escaped no very small troubles; for the Danes at Hampton quickly broke the league with king Edelred, and sailing towards the west greatly annoyed the coasts of Cornwal and Devonshire, and at last landed in South Wales. Having destroyed St. David's, Lhanbadarn, Lhanrhystyd, Lhandydoch, and several other religious places, the country was so much harassed and weakened that Prince Meredith was forced to compound with them,
A.D. 988. and to pay a tribute of one penny for every person within his dominions, which in Welsh was called Glwmaem, or the tribute of the black army. Ireland also at this time received no inconsiderable blow from the Danes, who slew Elwmaen the son of Abloic king of the country, and so ravaged and laid waste that kingdom, that a great number of the natives perished by famine.

The year following, Owen the son of Dyfnwal, a man of
989. considerable note and reputation among the Welsh, was slain, which was the only remarkable event that happened this year; but in the next year Edwin ap Eineon, who was right heir to the principality of South Wales, having
990. procured the aid of a great army of English and Danes entered in great force into Meredith's country, spoiled all the land of Cardigan, Dyfed, Gwyr, Kydwely, and St. David's, and received hostages of the chief persons of those
991. countries to own him as their rightful prince. To avenge these outrages upon Edwyn, Meredith destroyed the town of Radnor, spoiled Glamorgan, and carried away the chief men thereof prisoners, who on paying their ransom were set at liberty. Whilst Wales was in this distracted condition, and scarce any place free from hostility, Meredith and Edwyn were happily reconciled, and the differences were composed that had existed between them, so that the English and Danes who came in with Edwyn, and who expected to reap an harvest out of these civil disturbances of the Welsh, were unexpectedly dismissed and sent home. Soon after this agreement, Cadwalhon, the only son of Meredith, died, which rendered the composition between Meredith and Edwyn more firm, by reason that this latter thought now that he should without any dispute succeed Meredith in the principality. This, however, did not take place, for Meredith being very much disturbed in South Wales, had so much work upon his hands to defend that country, that he left North Wales exposed to the common enemy, which the Danes were quickly acquainted with, and

so

so landing in Anglesey, they ravaged and laid waste the whole island. The men of North Wales finding themselves A. D. 992. thus forsaken by Meredith, and their country in danger of being over-run by the Danes, if not timely prevented, set up Edwal the son of Meyric, the indisputable heir of North Wales, though long kept from it, and owned him for their prince.* These incessant wars and commotions in South Wales, occasioned a great famine in the country, of which a considerable number of people perished. Meredith, however, who had once conquered North Wales, and for a long time had got possession of South Wales, without any right or title to either, was now obliged to relinquish the one, and was scarcely able to maintain the other.

EDWAL AP MEYRIC.

EDWAL, after a long and tedious expectation, being 993. now joyfully received by the men of North Wales as their prince, endeavoured, in the first place, to defend his subjects from the injuries and depredations they received from the Danes; and having in a measure effected that, he was accosted by another enemy; for Meredith being resolved to revenge the indignity and disgrace inflicted upon him by the men of North Wales, in depriving him of the government of their country, gathered together all his power, intending to recover possession of that principality. Having advanced as far as Lhangwm,† Edwal met him, and in open battle routed his army; in which action Theodore or Tewdwr Mawr, Meredith's nephew, was slain,‡ leaving two sons, Rhys and Rytherch, and a daughter named Elen. It is, however, deemed probable that it was not Tewdwr Mawr, but his brother Edwyn, that was slain in this battle, which also seems rather to have been fought at Hengwm in Ardudwy, in Merionethshire, than at Lhangwm, for in Hengwm there are to this day certain monuments of victory to be seen, as heaps of stones, tomb-stones, and columns, which they call Carneddi Hengwm. Edwal returning home triumphantly after this victory, thought he had now secured himself in his government, and expected to enjoy his dominions without molestation. He had, however, scarcely recovered the fatigue of the last engagement, when Swane the son of Harold, having lately pillaged and wasted the Isle of Man, landed in North Wales, whom Edwal endeavouring

* Welsh Chron. p. 71. † Llangwm, in Denbighshire. ‡ Welsh Chron. p. 72.

vouring to oppose, was slain in the encounter, leaving one son,* called Iago. Within a short time the Danes returned again against St. David's, and destroying all before them with fire and sword, slew Morgeney, or Urgeney, bishop of that diocese. Prince Meredith being highly concerned at the mischiefs these barbarous people continually did to his country, and the more, because he was not able to repel their insolencies, died of grief and vexation, having issue an only daughter named Angharad, who was twice married; first to Lhewelyn ap Sitsyhlt, and after his death to Confyn ap Hirdref, or, as others think, to Confyn ap Gwerystan. She had children by both husbands, which occasioned afterwards many disturbances and civil commotions in Wales, the issue of both marriages pretending a right of succession to the principality of South Wales.†

AEDAN AP BLEGORAD.

EDWAL, Prince of North Wales, being killed in the battle against Swane, and having no other issue than Iago, who was a minor, and too young to take upon him the government; and Meredith, Prince of South Wales, dying without any other issue than a daughter, caused various quarrels and contentions among the Welsh, several, without any colour of right, putting in their claim and pretensions to the government. In North Wales, Conan the son of Howel,
A. D. 1003. and Aedan the son of Blegorad, were the chief aspirers to that principality; and because they could not agree who should be the governor, they determined to try the matter in open field, where Conan had the misfortune to be slain; and so Aedan was victoriously proclaimed Prince of North Wales.‡ Who this Aedan was descended from, or what colour or pretence he could lay to the principality, is matter of great doubt, there being none of that name to be met with in any Welsh records, excepting Blegorad who is mentioned in the line of Howel Dha, whose estate and quality were not sufficient to countenance any claim of his posterity to the principality of Wales. But be that as it may, Aedan, after his victory over Conan ap Howel, was owned Prince by the men of North Wales, over whom he bore rule for the space of twelve years; though, besides his conquest of Conan ap Howel, there is nothing recorded of
1015. him, excepting his being slain, together with his four sons, by Lhewelyn ap Sitsylht.

While

* Welsh Chron. p. 73. † Ibid. p. 73. ‡ Ibid. pp. 74, 83.

While the Welsh were in this unsettled condition, the Scots began to grow powerful in Ireland, and having destroyed the town and country of Develyn, they took Gulfath and Ubiad, two Irish lords, prisoners, whose eyes they inhumanly put out. The Danes also, who had lately made their incursions into South Wales, began now to molest the English: having landed in the west, they passed through the counties of Somerset, Dorset, Hants, and Sussex, destroying and burning all before them; and advancing without any opposition as far as the river Medway, they laid siege to Rochester, which the Kentish men endeavoured to preserve by assembling themselves together and giving the Danes battle, but they were vanquished in the undertaking. King Edelred was then in Cumberland, where the Danes were more numerously planted, which country he kept quiet and in subjection. In the mean time another army of Danes landed in the west, against whom the country people of Somersetshire assembled themselves, and shewed their readiness to attack them, but wanting a leader, were easily put to the rout, and the Danes ruled and commanded the country at their pleasure. The King being much harassed by the insolence and continual depredations of the Danes, thought convenient to strengthen himself by some powerful affinity, and to that end sent ambassadors to Richard Duke of Normandy, desiring his daughter Emma in marriage, and requesting aid to repel the Danish incursions. Here it is observable, that as the Saxons, being formerly called over as friends and allies to the well-meaning Britons, violently and wrongfully possessed themselves of the greatest part of the island, so now the Normans, being invited to aid the English against the Danes, took so great a liking to the country, that they never gave over their design of obtaining it till they became conquerors of the whole island. The mischief of calling in the Normans had been foretold to King Edelred, but he was so far concerned about the present calamities caused by the Danes, that he was deaf to all considerations as to the future; and therefore, being elated with hopes of increase of strength by this new alliance, he sent private letters to all cities and towns throughout his dominions where the Danes were quartered, requiring them all upon St. Brice's night to massacre the Danes, which was accordingly performed with much unanimity and secrecy. This cruel act was so far from discouraging the Danes, that they now began to vow the eradication of the English nation, and to revenge that unmanly massacre of their countrymen; to which end they landed in Devonshire, and over-running the

the country with fire and sword, spared nothing that had the least spark of life in it. The city of Exeter they razed to the ground, and slew Hugh the Norman, whom the Queen had recommended to the government of it. To prevent their further incursions, Almarus Earl of Devon gathered a great army out of Hampshire and Wiltshire and the country thereabouts, and marched with a determined resolution to oppose the Danes; but they put Almarus to flight, and pursued him to Wilton and Salisbury, which being ransacked and plundered, they carried the pillage thereof triumphantly to their ships.

A. D. 1004. The next year Swane, a prince of great repute in Denmark, landed upon the coast of Norfolk and laid siege to Norwich, and wasted the country thereabouts. Wolfkettel, Duke of that country, being too weak to oppose him, thought it most convenient to make a peace with the Dane; which was quickly broken, and then Swane marched privately to Thetford, and after he had spoiled and ransacked that place, he returned with his prey to his ships. Wolfkettel hearing this, privately drew up his forces, and marched against the enemy; but being far inferior in number, the Danes defeated him, and afterwards sailed to their own country. Within two years after, the Danes returned again, bringing with them their usual companions, fire, sword, and spoliation, and landed at Sandwich; after they had burnt and pillaged that place, they sailed to the Isle of Wight, where they took up their quarters till Christmas: and then coming forth thence, they over-ran, by several parties, the countries of Hampshire and Berkshire, as far as Reading, Wallingford, and Colsey; devouring, for want of other plunder, all the provisions they found in the houses, and destroyed the same with fire and sword at their departure. In their return they met with the army of the West Saxons near Essington, but this consisting only of a raw and inexperienced rabble, was easily broken through, and the Danes passing triumphantly by the gates of Winchester, got safe with great booty to the Isle of Wight. King Edelred all this while lay at his manor-house in Shropshire, much troubled and concerned at these uninterrupted devastations of the Danes; and the nobility of England, willing rather to save some than lose all they possessed, bought their peace of the Danes for the sum of 30,900 pounds. During the interval of repose thus obtained, King Edelred, rousing his drooping spirits, ordained, that every three hundred hides of land (one hide being as much as one plough can sufficiently till) through his dominions should

should man and fit out a ship, and every eight hides provide a corslet and a helmet; besides which the king had no inconsiderable navy sent him from Normandy. This fleet when rendezvoused at Sandwich seemed very powerful in those days, and was the greatest that had ever down to that period rode upon the British sea. And now, when it was thought that all things would go well with the English, of a sudden another cloud appeared; for one Wilnot, a nobleman of Sussex, being banished by King Edelred, got to sea with a small number of ships, and practised piracy along the coasts of Britain, greatly annoying all merchants and passengers. Brightrych, brother to the traitorous Edric A.D. 1008. Earl of Mercia, thinking to advance his reputation by some signal exploit, promised to bring Wilnot dead or alive before Edelred: to which end he set forth with a considerable fleet; which meeting with a terrible storm, was by the tempest driven back, and wrecked upon the shores; so that a great number of the ships were lost, and the rest burnt by Wilnot and his followers. Brightrych being dismayed with this unfortunate beginning, returned ingloriously by the Thames back to London; so that this great preparation against the Danes was dashed to pieces and came to nothing.

The Danes were not ignorant of the misfortune the 1009. English received by this storm, and without any further enquiry, landed at Sandwich, and so passed on to Canterbury, which they intended to destroy, but were prevented by the citizens paying 3000 pounds. Passing from thence, through Kent, Sussex, and Hampshire, they came to Berkshire, where King Edelred at length met with them, and determining resolutely to attack them, was by the cunning insinuations and subtile arguments of the traitor Edric dissuaded from fighting. The Danes being thus delivered from the danger which they certainly expected, passed on joyfully by the city of London, and with great booty returned to their ships. The next year they landed again at Ipswich, upon Ascension Day, where Wolfkettel met them by a spirited encounter; but being overpowered by numbers, he was forced to fall back and yield the victory to the Danes. Passing from thence to Cambridge, they met with Ethelstan, King Edelred's nephew by his sister, who with an army endeavoured to oppose them; but the Danes proving too powerful, he with many other noblemen were slain; among whom were Duke Oswyn and the Earls Edwyn and Wolfrike. From hence the Danes passed through Essex, leaving no manner of cruelty and barbarity unpractised, and returned laden with booty to their ships, which lay in the Thames.

A.D. 1010. Thames. They could not, however, continue long in their vessels; and therefore sallying out, they passed by the river side to Oxford, which they ransacked again; adding to their prey the plunder of the counties of Buckingham, Bedford, Hertford, and Northampton, and having accomplished that year's cruelties, at Christmas they returned to their ships. Yet the prey of the country from the Trent
1011. southward did not satisfy these unmerciful barbarians; for as soon as the season gave them leave to peep out of their dens they laid siege to the city of Canterbury, which being delivered up by the treachery of Almarez the Archdeacon, was condemned to blood and ashes, and Alfege the Archbishop carried prisoner to the Danish fleet, where he was
1012. cruelly put to death. The next year Swane King of Denmark came up the Humber and landed at Gainesborow, whither repaired to him Uthred Earl of Northumberland with his people, the inhabitants of Lindsey, with all the countries northward of Watling-street, being a highway crossing from the east to the west sea, and gave their oath and hostages to obey him; on which, King Swane finding his undertaking fortunate beyond expectation, committed the care of his fleet to his son Canute, and marched himself first to Oxford, and then to Winchester; which cities, probably through fear of further calamities, readily acknowledged him for their king. From thence he marched for London, where King Edelred then lay, and which was so ably defended by the citizens, that he was likely to effect nothing against it; and therefore he directed his course to Wallingford and Bath, where the principal men of the West Saxons yielded him subjection. The Londoners too, at last, fearing his fury and displeasure, made their peace, and sent him hostages; which city being thus received under his subjection, Swane from that time was accounted King of all England. King Edelred perceiving all his affairs in England to go against him, and his authority and government reduced to so narrow a compass, and having sent his queen with his two sons Edward and Alfred to Normandy, he thought it expedient within a short time to follow himself. He was honourably received by his brother-in-law Richard; and had not been there long before news arrived of the death of Swane, and that he was desired by the English to return to his kingdom. Being animated and comforted with this cheering news, he set forward with a great army to England, and landing at Lindsey, he cruelly harassed that province, by reason that it had owned subjection to Canute the son of Swane, whom the Danes had elected king in his father's stead.

stead. King Canute being at Ipswich, and certified of the arrival of King Edelred, and the devastation of Lindsey, and fearing that his authority was going down the wind, barbarously cut off the hands and noses of all the hostages he received from the English, and presently set sail for Denmark. Whilst England was in this general confusion, there occurred as great a storm in Ireland; for Brian king of that island, and his son Murcath, with other kings of the country subject to Brian, joined their forces against Sutric the son of Abloic King of Dublin, and Mailmorda King of Lagenes. Sutric being of himself too weak to encounter so numerous a multitude, hired all the pirates and rovers who cruised upon the seas, and then gave Brian battle, who, with his son Murcath, were slain; and on the other side, Mailmorda, and Broderic General of the auxiliaries.

But Canute, though he was in a manner forced to forsake England upon the recalling of King Edelred, did not abandon all his pretence to the kingdom; and therefore the next year he came to renew his claim, and landed with a powerful force in West-Sex, where he exercised very great hostility. To prevent his incursions, Edric, and Edmund (bastard son to Edelred), raised their forces separately; but when both armies were united, they durst not, either for fear or because of the dissension of the two generals, fight with the Danes. Edmund therefore passed to the north, and joined with Uthred, Duke of Northumberland, and both together descended and spoiled Stafford, Leicester, and Shropshire. On the other side, Canute marched forcibly through Buckingham, Bedford, and Huntingdonshire, and so (by Stafford) passed toward York, whither Uthred hastened, and, finding no other remedy, submitted himself, with all the Northumbrians, to Canute, giving hostages for the performance of what they then agreed upon. Notwithstanding this submission, Uthred was treacherously slain, not without the permission of Canute, and his dukedom betowed upon one Egrick, a Dane; whereupon Edmund left them, and went to his father, who lay sick at London. Canute, returning to his ships, presently followed, and sailed up the Thames towards London; but before he could come near the city King Edelred was dead, after a troublesome reign of thirty-seven years. On his decease, the English nobility chose his base son Edmund (for his eminent strength and hardiness in war, surnamed Ironside) as their king. Upon this, Canute brought his whole fleet up the river to London, and, having cut a deep trench round the town, invested it on all sides; but being valorously repulsed by A. D. 1013.

by the defendants, he detached the best part of his army to fight with Edmund, who was marching to raise the siege; and both armies meeting in battle at Proman by Gillingham, Canute with his Danes were put to flight; but as soon as time and opportunity permitted him to recruit his forces, Canute gave Edmund a second battle at Caerstane: Edric, Almar, and Algar, however, covertly siding with the Danes, Edmund had great difficulty in maintaining the fight obstinately till night and weariness parted them. Both armies having suffered considerably in this action, Edmund went to West-Sex to reinforce himself, and the Danes returned to the siege of London, whither Edmund quickly followed, raised the siege, forced Canute and his Danes to betake themselves in confusion to their ships, and then entered triumphantly into the city. Two days after, passing the Thames at Brentford, he fell upon the Danes in their retreat, by which lucky opportunity obtaining a considerable victory, he returned again to raise recruits among the West Saxons. Canute, upon Edmund's removal, appeared again before London, and invested it by land and water, but in vain; the besieged so manfully and resolutely defending themselves, that it was impossible to master the town before Edmund could come to the relief of it: and this they soon experienced; for Edmund, having augmented his forces, again crossed the Thames at Brentford, and came to Kent in pursuit of Canute, who upon giving battle was so signally defeated at first, and his men put to such rout, that there wanted nothing of a full and absolute victory but the firm adherence of the traitor Edric, who perceiving the advantage to incline to Edmund, and the Danes likely to receive their final blow, cried aloud, "Fled Engle, Fled Engle, Edmund is dead," and thereupon fled with that part of the army under his command, leaving the king overpowered with numbers. By this desertion and treachery the English were at last overthrown, and a great number slain, among whom were Duke Edmund, Duke Alfric, Duke Godwyn, and Wolfkettel, the valiant Duke of the East Angles, together with all the English cavalry, and a great portion of the nobility. After this victory Canute marched triumphantly to London, and was crowned king; but Edmund, resolving to try his fortune in another field, mustered together all the forces he could, and meeting with Canute in Gloucestershire intended to give him battle: considering, however, what cruel and unnatural bloodshed had already been caused, both generals agreed to put an end to their tedious quarrel by single combat; and the place being appointed, Edmund

and

and Canute attacked each other very vigorously, till at last Canute perceiving it impracticable to vanquish a man like Ironsides, laid down his weapon, making an offer to divide the kingdom fairly betwixt them: Edmund was not displeased at the proposal, and therefore both parties submitted to this decision, that Edmund should rule the West-Saxons and the South; Canute in Mercia and all the North; and so they parted friends, Canute moving to London, and Edmund to Oxford. But Edric was not satisfied that Edmund should have any share at all of the government, and therefore he resolved to conspire against his life, and to deliver the whole kingdom of England into the hands of Canute; of whom he might reasonably expect for this, and other traitorous services, a very ample and an answerable return. This he committed to one of his own sons to put in execution, a scion of the old stock, and one early versed in wicked and traitorous designs, who, perceiving the king to go to stool, thrust a sharp knife up his fundament, of which wound he immediately died. Edric being soon informed of the fact, hastened to London, and with great joy and loud acclamations came to Canute, greeting him as sole King of England, and withal, telling him in what manner, and by whose means, his old enemy, King Edmund, was assassinated, at Oxford. Canute, though pleased at the death of Edmund, was a person of greater honour than to commend so horrible a deed, though done to an enemy, and therefore told Edric, that he would without fail take care to reward him as his deserts required, and would advance him above all the nobility of England, which was quickly performed, his head being placed upon the highest tower in London, for a terror to such villainous traitors to their king. Edric was thus deservedly disappointed of the mighty thoughts he entertained of greatness upon the advancement of King Canute: this generous Dane scorned his baseness, and having paid Edric a traitor's reward, caused execution to be done upon all his accomplices, and upon all those that consented to the base murder of that brave Prince, King Edmund.

About the same time there happened great disturbance and commotion in Wales; Lhewelyn ap Sytsyllht having for some years been still and quiet, began now to bestir himself, and having drawn all his forces together, marched against Aedan, who forcibly and without any legal pretence had entered upon, and for all this time had kept himself in, the government of North Wales. Aedan would not quietly surrender A. D. 1018.

surrender what had been so long in his possession, and to maintain which, he now gave Lhewelyn battle; but the victory going against him, he and his four sons were slain upon the spot: on which Lhewelyn, without any regard to the claim of Iago the son of Edwal, the right heir, took upon himself the title and authority of Prince of all Wales. His pretension to North Wales was, as being descended from Trawst, daughter to Elis, second son to Anarawd, who was the eldest son of Roderic the Great;* and to South Wales, as having married Angharad, the only daughter of Meredith Prince of South Wales; by virtue of which pretensions he assumed to himself the government of all Wales.

LHEWELYN AP SITSYLLT.

LHEWELYN having, as already stated, taken upon him the general government of Wales, managed his charge with such prudence and moderation, that the country in a short time became very flourishing and prosperous; peace and tranquillity being established produced plenty and increase of all things necessary to human subsistence: for there was none that could lay any claim or pretence to either of the principalities, excepting Iago the son of Edwal, who was indeed lawful heir of North Wales, but either too weak to withstand or unwilling to disturb Lhewelyn's title, and therefore lay quiet for a time, expecting a better opportunity to recover his right. In the mean time Canute being crowned King of all England, married Emma the widow of King Edelred; and for the better securing the English crown to himself and his heirs, he thought it expedient to dispatch Edmund and Edward the sons of Ironsides out of the way. Lest, however, such an execrable fact should seem too black to be done in England, he sent the two youths to Solomon King of Hungary, requesting him to use some convenient opportunity to take away their lives; which seemed to Solomon so very unnatural, that instead of complying with Canute's request, he educated and brought them up as his own children. Canute imagined now that his fear was over, and his business effectually finished, so that he could the more boldly demand of his subjects what either his necessity or curiosity would prompt him to; and reflecting with himself what excessive expense he had been at in the conquest of England, was resolved that the English

* Brit. Ant. revived by Vaughan of Hengwrt, p. 14.

English should repay him, and therefore required a subsidy of seventy-two thousand pounds, besides eleven thousand which the city of London contributed. At this time, Meyric the son of Arthfael, a person of quality in Wales, rebelled, and raised an army against Prince Llewelyn, who as soon as he appeared in the field to quell this mal-content General, met with him and manfully slew him with his own hand, and easily discomfited his followers.* About this time also Canute sailed over to Denmark, and made war upon the Vandals, who, notwithstanding they had a greater army in the field, were overcome by the incomparable valour of Earl Godwyn; for which famous action Canute held the English in great esteem ever after.

Llewelyn Prince of Wales, though he had lately quelled A. D. 1020.
the rebels headed by Meyric, had now to encounter another difficulty, which seemed to threaten greater disturbance and trouble to him; for a certain person of a mean quality in Scotland coming to South Wales, assumed the name of Rûn,† and gave out that he was the son of Meredith Prince of South Wales; to whom joined a great number of the nobility, who had no great affection for Llewelyn, and proclaimed Rûn Prince of South Wales. Llewelyn being then in North Wales, was informed of this famous impostor, and assembling an army together, marched to meet him, who, with the whole strength of South Wales, then lay at Abergwili,‡ where he waited the arrival of Llewelyn. When both armies were ready to join battle, Rûn made a vaunting speech to his soldiers, assuring them of victory, and so persuading them courageously to fall on, privately himself retired out of harm's way; so that there was on the one side a valiant army under a cowardly general, and on the other part a valiant and a noble commander engaging with a slow and a faint-hearted army; for Llewelyn, like a bold and courageous prince, ventured into the midst of his enemies, whilst Rûn privately sneaked off out of all danger; and the men of South Wales were more fierce and eager in the cause of a pretender than the men of North Wales to maintain the quarrel of a prince of their own blood. After great slaughter on both sides, the men of North Wales calling to mind the several victories they had obtained, and being in a great degree animated by the incomparable valour of their prince, fell on so warmly that they put their enemies to flight, and pursued Rûn so close, that notwithstanding his several devices, he was at last overtaken and slain.

* Welsh Chron. p. 85. † Welsh Chron. p 85. ‡ In Caermarthenshire.

slain. Llewelyn, after this victory, returned laden with spoil into North Wales,* and for some time lived peaceably and without disturbance: but the next year, Howel and Meredith, the sons of Edwyn, conspired against him and slew him. He left a son called Gruffydh ap Llewelyn,† who afterwards, though not immediately, ascended to the principality of North Wales.

IAGO‡ AP EDWAL.

ON the death of Llewelyn, Iago the son of Edwal, the true heir to the principality of North Wales, who had been so long wrongfully kept from it, thought this the best opportunity to enter upon his right, by reason of the minority of Gruffydh the son of Llewelyn; upon which pretence, likewise, Rytherch the son of Iestyn forcibly assumed the principality of South Wales. About the same time, Canute King of England sailed over to Denmark and Sweden, against Ulf and Alaf, who had excited the Finlanders against him, whom he subdued, though with the loss of a great part of his army, as well English as Danes. Within a while after his return to England, he made a very pompous and magnificent journey to Rome; more to satisfy his ambitious temper, and to signify to the world his greatness and might, which he expressed by his costly presents and princely behaviour, than in any way to make atonement for the oppression and bloodshed by which he had established himself in his kingdom: for what holiness and mortification he had learnt at Rome presently appeared upon his return to England; when, without any provocation, he marched with an army into Scotland, and forced Malcolm the king thereof, together with Molbeath and Jermare, the kings of the Orkneys and Ewist, to do him homage.

A.D. 1031. The affairs of Wales were at this time very turbulent and unsettled; for Howel and Meredith, after the murder of Prince Llewelyn, expected to enjoy some part of his principality themselves, but finding that Iago had seized upon North Wales, and Rytherch upon South Wales, and withal perceiving their own power too weak to oppose their designs, they invited over the Irish-Scots to their aid against Rytherch ap Iestyn, Prince of South Wales. By the help of

* Welsh Chron. pp. 85, 86.

† Welsh Chron. ibid. Ap Einion ap Owen ap Howel Dhâ. The word *ap*, which so frequently occurs in Welsh names, signifies a *son*.

‡ Lineally descended from Roderic the Great, but had been long unjustly excluded.—Welsh Chron. pp. 87, 88.—Warrington, vol. 1, p. 312.

of these, Howel and Meredith prevailed over Rytherch, who being at length slain, they jointly took upon themselves the rule and government of South Wales. This, however, was not a sufficient title to establish them so firmly in it that their usurpation would not be called in question; for A. D. 1032.
the sons of Rytherch, presently after their father's death, gathered their forces together to fight with the brothers Howel and Meredith, who met at Irathwy,* where a cruel battle was fought, called Gwaith Irathwy; and at last the sons of Rytherch were put to flight. Though these victories, the one over Rytherch, and the second over his sons, seemed in a great measure to favour Howel and Meredith's pretence to and establishment in the principality; yet the unpardonable crime of the murder of Lhewelyn, a prince of 1033.
so extraordinary qualities, could not remain long unrevenged; for the sons of Conan the son of Sitsylht, Prince Lhewelyn's brother, were resolved to avenge their uncle's murder upon the two usurpers, which in a short time they effected against Meredith, who met with the same end from the sons of Conan that he had formerly inflicted upon Lhewelyn. These civil discords in Wales were quickly 1034.
discovered by the English, who, taking advantage of so fair an opportunity, entered with a great army into the land of Gwent, where, after they had committed considerable waste for some time, Caradoc the son of Rytherch ap Iestyn gave them battle, but was in that engagement unhappily slain. Shortly afterwards died King Canute, the most famous and 1035.
the mightiest prince then in the western parts of the world, whose dominions extended over all Sweden, from Germany almost to the North Pole, together with the kingdoms of Norway and Denmark, and the noble island of Britain. To him succeeded his son Harold, for his swiftness surnamed Harefoot, begotten upon Alwyn, the daughter of Duke Alselyn, though several firmly contended for Hardycanute, his other son by Emma, who was then in Denmark. Harold, however, being advanced to the throne, took care to establish himself as firmly as he could in it, and to that end thought it expedient to banish out of his dominions his mother-in-law Emma, who was endeavouring to promote the interest of her own son Hardycanute, and to bring him to the crown of England.

Whilst Harold was by these measures settled in his 1037.
dominions, Iago ap Edwal was on the point of losing his principality of North Wales; for Gruffydh the son of Lhewelyn ap Sitsylht, sometime Prince of North Wales, having

* Welsh Chron. pp. 87, 88.

having intimated his intention of rebelling against Iago, was so generously encouraged and universally followed by all people, for the love they bore to his father, that in a short time his army amounted to an invincible number. However, Iago was not so thoroughly affrighted as to give up his principality without drawing a sword for it; but providing for himself as well as he could, and drawing together such forces as he could assemble, he gave Gruffydh battle, when his number being far too weak to oppose so great an army as that of Gruffydh, he was presently overpowered and put to the rout, and himself slain, leaving a son called Conan, by his wife Afandred, daughter to Gweir the son of Pyhl.*

GRUFFYDH AP LHEWELYN.

IAGO ap Edwal being slain, Gruffydh ap Lhewelyn was received with loud acclamations, and joyfully greeted as Prince of North Wales, and treading in his father's steps, demeaned himself in his government with that prudence and conduct, that he manfully defended his country against the frequent invasions of the English and Danes; for he was scarcely settled in his dominion when these inveterate enemies of the Welsh entered in an hostile manner into Wales, and advanced as far as Crosford upon the Severn, where Gruffydh met them, and forced them to retire with the utmost speed to their own country. From thence Gruffydh passed to Llanbadarn Vawr, in Cardiganshire, which he laid in ashes, and afterwards marched through all the country of South Wales, receiving of the people an oath of fidelity and subjection to him. In the mean time, Howel ap Edwyn Prince of South Wales fled to Edwyn, brother to Leofric Earl of Chester, and prevailed upon him to come with an army, consisting of English and Danes, to his aid against Gruffydh, who, meeting his enemies in the field, easily overcame them, Edwyn being slain upon the spot, and Howel forced to preserve his life by flight; after which victory Gruffydh, having reduced all the country of Wales
A.D. 1039. to subjection, returned again to North Wales.† Howel, as soon as he could recover himself and recruit his army, entered again into South Wales, intending the recovery of that principality, which he was now so well assured of, that he brought his wife with him to the field, to let her see how easily

* Welsh Chron. p. 89. † Welsh Chron. p. 91.

easily he could conquer Gruffydh;* but too great an assurance of victory seldom proves prosperous, which Howel soon experienced; for Gruffydh meeting with him at Pencadair,† gave him so warm an entertainment that he was forced to a precipitate flight, which, however, could not so well secure him, but that he was narrowly pursued, and his wife, who was to have been entertained with the conquest of Gryffydh, saw herself, on the contrary, taken prisoner by him, and forced to comply so far to his humour as to be his concubine.‡

At this time Harold King of England died, and was succeeded by his brother Hardycanute, a prince very famous for hospitality, and a great lover of good cheer, having his table covered four times a day with great plenty and variety of dishes, and numerous superfluities for all comers; but he likewise dying at Lambeth, after two years reign, the English agreed to send for Alfred the eldest son of Edelred from Normandy, and to make him king. This message by no means pleased Earl Godwyn, a man of great sway then in England, who, knowing Alfred to be a person of greater spirit than to permit him to rule as he pleased, endeavoured by every means to dissuade the English from sending for Alfred. He told them how dangerous it was to permit a warlike nation to take root in their country, and how numerously Alfred would be attended by the Normans, to whom he had promised the chief places and rule of the kingdom; by which and other like insinuations he so exasperated the English nobility against the Normans, that to diminish their number they put every tenth man to death. This, however, not being sufficient, they acted the same part over again, and tythed them a second time; and being highly enraged against the Normans, they led Alfred, who had brought them over, from Gilford, where this execution was committed, to Gillingham, where having put out his eyes, they removed him to Ely, and there at length murdered him. Then they sent for Edward out of Normandy, and made him king, who, according to his promise to Earl Godwyn, married his daughter Edith, a lady much commended not only for beauty, modesty, and other feminine qualifications, but also, beyond what was then considered requisite

* Welsh Chron. p. 91. † In Caermarthenshire.

‡ Welsh Chron. p. 91.—But it does not appear that Gruffydh lost any reputation with his subjects; the Welsh, like most other nations at that time, regarding whatever they had taken in war, even the wives of the vanquished, as the lawful property of the conqueror; so great is the force of habit upon the human mind, as to counteract the first and the noblest principles of nature and religion.—Lord Lyttleton's Hen. II.—Warrington, vol. 1, p. 316.

requisite for a woman, learning. King Edward did not deal so favourably with her brother Swane, son to Earl Godwyn, who upon some distaste was banished England, and thereupon forced to betake himself to Baldwyn Earl of Flanders, by whom he was very honourably received.

A.D. 1041. These troubles and revolutions in England were succeeded by others of no less consequence in Wales. For Howel, chagrined at being kept so wrongfully out of his kingdom, returned again the third time into South Wales, where he had not continued long before a great number of strangers landed in the west of Wales, and advancing farther into the country, pillaged and destroyed all places they came to. Howel, though desirous to reserve his army to fight with Prince Gruffydh, yet could not behold his country so miserably wasted and over-run by strangers; and thinking moreover, that by so charitable an action he should win the universal love of the men of South Wales, he drew up his forces against them, and overtaking them at Pwll Fynach, forced them, with much loss, to retire to their ships; which action was called in Welsh Gwaith Pwll Fynach. At the same time Conan, the son of Iago ap Edwal, who, for fear of Prince Gruffydh, was forced to flee to Ireland, with the forces of Alfred, King of Dublin, whose daughter, named Ranulph, he had married, landed in North Wales; and having, by some treacherous stratagem, taken Gruffydh, triumphantly carried him prisoner towards his ships. This unhappy accident being discovered, and publicly known, the North Wales men rose on a sudden, and so unexpectedly overtook the Irish, that they easily recovered their Prince, and drove his enemies with great slaughter to their ships; who, without any further consultation, were glad to sail with Conan for Ireland.* Wales, both North and South, being now free from all foreign invasion, and Howel, as yet, too weak to dispute his title with Gruffydh, the next year
1042. passed without any occurrence of moment, excepting the death of Howel, the son of Owen, Lord of Glamorgan, a
1043. man of great quality and esteem in Wales. Howel, the son of Edwyn, however, as soon as he could call in his Danes, to whom he added all the forces he could raise in South Wales, intended to march against Prince Gruffydh; but he being previously aware to what end those levies were designed, prepared against the approaching storm; and to avert the war from his own country, marched courageously to South Wales, not fearing to face an enemy whom he had completely vanquished twice already. Both armies having met,

* Welsh Chron. p. 93.

met, Gruffydh easily overcame, and pursued Howel as far as the spring-head of the river Towy,* where, after a long and a bloody fight, Howel was at last slain, and his army so universally routed, that few escaped with their lives.† Though Howel was now dead, there remained still more pretenders to the principality of South Wales; so that Gruffydh had no great prospect of enjoying the same peaceably: for as soon as it was published that Howel's army was defeated, and himself slain, Rytherch and Rhys, the sons of Rytherch ap Iestyn, put in their claim to South Wales in right of their father, who had once enjoyed the sovereignty of that country; and in order to its recovery, they assembled together a great army, consisting partly of strangers and partly of such as they could raise in Gwentland and Glamorgan, and marched to fight with Gruffydh. The Prince, according to his usual manner, delayed no time, but animating and solacing his soldiers with the remembrance of their former victories and conquests, gave his enemies battle, which conflict proved so very bloody and protracted, that nothing could part them beside the darkness of the night. This battle so tired and exhausted both armies, that neither was very desirous of another engagement, and the one being unwilling to renew the contest with the other, they each agreed to return to their own habitations.‡ At this time Joseph, Bishop of Teilo or Llandaff, died at Rome. The contending armies being separated, Prince Gruffydh enjoyed a quiet and unmolested possession of all Wales for about two years; after which, the gentry of Ystrad Towy treacherously slew 140 of his best soldiers, which made him so indignant, that to revenge their death, he destroyed all Dyfed and Ystrad Towy.

About the same time, Lothen and Hyrling, two Danish pirates, with a great number of Danes, landed at Sandwich, and having plundered the town, returned again to their ships, and sailed for Holland, where they sold the booty they had taken, and then returned to their own country. Shortly afterwards Earl Swayn came out of Denmark with eight ships, and returned to England, and coming to his father's house at Pevenese, humbly requested of him, and his brothers Harold and Tostie, to endeavour to obtain his reconciliation with the King. Earl Beorned also promised to intercede for him, and going to Swayn's fleet to sail to Sandwich, where the King then lay, he was by the way most treacherously and ungratefully murdered, and his body cast upon the shore, which lay there exposed, till his friends hearing

* In Caermarthenshire. † Welsh Chron. p. 92. ‡ Ibid.

hearing of the fact, came and carried it to Winchester, and buried it by the body of King Canute, Beorned's uncle. Swayn having committed this most detestable murder, put himself again under the protection of the Earl of Flanders, not daring to shew his face in England, till his father by earnest mediation made his peace with the King.

This year Conan, the son of Iago, raised again an army of his friends in Ireland, and sailed towards Wales, purposing to recover his inheritance in that country; but when he was come near the Welsh coast, there suddenly arose such a violent storm, that his fleet was immediately scattered, and most of his ships wrecked, which rendered this expedition ineffectual.* About the same time, Robert, Archbishop of Canterbury, impeached Earl Godwyn, and his sons Swayn and Harold, of treason, and the Queen of adultery, and upon the account of their non-appearance when cited before the Peers at Gloucester, the Queen was divorced, and Godwyn and his sons banished, who with his son Swayn fled to Flanders, and Harold to Ireland. These unhappy occurrences, and the many troubles that ensued thereupon, arose upon this occasion:—Eustace, Earl of Bologne, being married to Goda, the King's sister, came over this year to England to pay King Edward a visit, and on his return to Canterbury, one of his retinue forcibly demanding a lodging, provoked the master of the house so far, as by chance or anger to kill him. Eustace, on this affront, returned to the King, and by the insinuations of the Archbishop, made a loud complaint against the Kentish men; to repress whose insolencies, Earl Godwyn was commanded to raise forces, which he refused to do, on account of the kindness he bore to his countrymen of Kent. The king summoned a parliament at Glocester, and commanded Godwyn to appear there; but he, mistrusting either his own cause, or the malice of his adversaries, gathered a powerful army out of his own and his son's earldoms, and marched towards Glocester, giving out that their forces were to go against the Welsh, who intended to invade the Marshes. King Edward being satisfied by the Welsh that they had no such design, commanded Godwyn to dismiss his army, and to appear himself to answer to the articles exhibited against him. Godwyn having refused to obey, the King, by the advice of Earl Leofrick, summoned an assembly at London, whither a great number of forces arrived from Mercia, which Godwyn perceiving, and withal finding himself unable to withstand the king's proceedings, privately

* Welsh Chron. p. 94.

privately retired with his sons out of the kingdom, and fled into Flanders: whereupon the king issued out an edict, proclaiming Godwyn and his sons out-laws, and then confiscating their estates, bestowed them upon others of his nobility. To pursue his displeasure the further, he divorced his Queen Edith, Earl Godwyn's daughter, and committed her to a cloister, where, in a mean condition, she spent some part of her life. In the distribution of the forfeited estates, Adonan obtained the earldoms of Devon and Dorset, and Algar, the son of Leofrick, that of Harold. Godwyn, however, could not patiently behold his estate bestowed upon another; and, therefore, having hired some men and ships in Flanders, he sailed to the Isle of Wight, and having made a sufficient havock there, he landed at Portland, which he treated after the same manner. About the same time, Harold having sailed from Ireland, at length met with his father, and then, with their united navy, they burnt Prevenceseny, Romney, Heath, Folkston, Dover, and Sandwich, and entering the Thames, they destroyed Cheppy, and burnt the king's house at Middletown. Then they sailed up the river towards London, where the King's army being ready to oppose them, a treaty of peace was, by the means of Bishop Stigand, agreed upon, which was so much in Godwyn's favour, that the King received him again to his confidence, restored him and his sons to all their estates, recalled the Queen, and banished the Archbishop, with all the Frenchmen who had been promoters of the unhappy suspicion that the king had entertained of them.

About this time Rhys, brother to Gruffydh Prince of Wales, who by several irruptions upon the borders had considerably galled and damaged the English, was taken and put to death at Bulenden, whose head being cut off, was presented to the King, then at Gloucester.* The king received, however, better news some time after from the north, for Siward Earl of Northumberland having sent his son against Macbeth King of Scotland, vanquished the Scots, though not without the loss of his son, and many others, both English and Danes. Siward was not cast down at his son's death; but enquiring whether he received his death's wound before or behind, and being assured that it was before, he replied, "He was very glad of it, for he could not wish his son to die otherwise." After this victory King Edward marched in person to Scotland, and having again

A. D. 1052.

A. D. 1053.

* His head was cut off by command of King Edward the Confessor.—Simon Dunelme, sub. ann. 1053.—Stowe's Chron. p. 97.—Matth. Westm. p. 323.—Hist. Angl.

again overcome Macbeth in battle, he made the whole kingdom of Scotland tributary to the crown of England. The next year Earl Godwyn, sitting with the king at table, suddenly sunk down dead, being choaked, as it is thought, in swallowing a morsel of bread; whose earldom the King bestowed upon his son Harold, and Harold's upon Algar Earl of Chester.

To this time is referred the origin of the Stewards in Scotland, which being a remarkable passage, and in a great measure dependant upon the affairs of the Welsh, is therefore here recorded. Macbeth King of Scotland having caused Bancho, a nobleman of that kingdom, to be inhumanly murdered, Fleance, Bancho's son, to avoid the like cruelty to himself, fled to Gruffydh ap Llewelyn Prince of Wales, who taking a very great liking to his person, and commiserating his condition, shewed him all the respect and kindness possible. But Fleance had not continued long with Gruffydh when he became enamoured of the prince's daughter, and having obtained her good-will, without any regard had to her father's kindness towards him, abused her so far as to get her with child. Gruffydh being acquainted with the fact, so resented the affront, that he caused Fleance to be slain, and treated his daughter most servilely for prostrating her chastity, especially to a stranger. However, she was in a short time delivered of a son, who was christened by the name of Walter; a child who in his youth promised much, and evinced every probability of his making a very considerable man, which happened according to expectation. The first evidence of his future greatness happened upon a very accidental occasion: being reproached of bastardism by one of his companions, he took it in such dudgeon that nothing could satisfy his revenge but the life of the aggressor. Being on this mischance afraid to await the award of the law, he thought it expedient to fly to Scotland, where, falling in company with certain Englishmen who were come thither with Queen Margaret, sister to Edgar Edeling, he behaved himself so discreetly, that he won the favour and good character of all who knew him, and his fame daily increasing, he grew at length to that height of reputation as to be employed in the most urgent affairs of the commonwealth, and at last was made Lord Steward of Scotland, from which office his posterity retained the surname of Steward;—the Kings of Scotland of that name, with several other families of quality in that kingdom, being descended from him.*

* Subsequent researches have proved that this passage is founded in error, and that the Stewards lineally descend from the ancient Shropshire family of Fitz-Alan.

But to return to England: Siward, the worthy Earl of Northumberland, died about this time of the bloody flux; a man of a rough demeanor and a mere warlike temper, as he plainly manifested when at the point of death: for, bewailing as a misfortune that he, who had escaped so many dangerous engagements, should be laid upon a bed of sickness, and withal disdaining to die so effeminately, he caused himself to be completely armed, and, as it were, in defiance of death, expired in this display of martial bravery. His son being too young, the king bestowed his earldom upon Tosty, the son of Earl Godwyn.

Wales had been now a long time quiet, and free of all troubles both from abroad and at home; but it was not to be expected that such a calm should prove durable, but rather that something or other would create new commotions and disturbances. Accordingly Gruffydh, son to Rytherch ap Iestyn, having recruited and recovered himself after the last defeat he received from Prince Gruffydh, ventured another trial for the principality of South Wales.* The Prince, losing no time, speedily marched against him, and both armies having met, Gruffydh ap Rytherch was easily vanquished, and finally was slain. But the troubles of the Welsh did not end with him; for Algar Earl of Chester being convicted of treason, and thereupon banished the kingdom, fled to Gruffydh Prince of Wales, requesting his aid against King Edward; and Gruffydh reciting the frequent wrongs he had received at the hands of the English, by their upholding his enemies against him, gladly embraced the opportunity, and promised him all imaginable support: and thereupon assembling his forces, he entered with him into Herefordshire, and advancing into the country within two miles of the city of Hereford, they were opposed by Randulph, Earl of that country, who boldly gave them battle. The fight continued very dreadful and dubious for some hours, till at last Gruffydh so encouraged his soldiers with the remembrance of their former victories over the English, that they attacked the English with renewed energy, and easily discomfited Randulph, and slew the best part of his army. Afterwards they pursued their chase to the town, and having made all the waste and havoc they were able, they laid the town itself in ashes, and so returned home triumphantly, laden with rich booty and plunder.†

A.D. 1054.

1055.

King

* Welsh Chron. p. 98.

† The Welsh in this engagement cut in pieces four or five hundred of the fugitives, and having entered into Hereford they burnt the Minster, and slew seven of the canons who rashly attempted to defend it.—Saxon Chron. p. 169.—Roger Hovedon, p. 443, 444.—Simon Dunelme, p. 188.—Matth. Westm. p. 321.

King Edward receiving notice of this invasion, presently gathered a great army at Gloucester under the conduct of Harold, Earl Godwyn's son, who courageously pursuing the enemy, entered into Wales, and encamped beyond Stradclwyd; but Gruffydh and Algar dreading to oppose him, retired further into South Wales, of which Harold being certified, left one part of his army behind (with orders to fight, if occasion required), and with the other passed to Hereford, which he fortified with a strong wall round the town. Gruffydh, perceiving his undaunted industry, after many messages, concluded a peace with Harold at a place called Biligelhag, by which articles Algar was pardoned by the king, and restored to his earldom of Chester.* He did not, however, continue long in the king's favour; for about two years after, upon conviction of treason, he was again banished the land, so that he was forced to betake himself to his old friend, Gruffydh Prince of Wales, by whose aid, and that of a fleet from Norway, in defiance of the king he was restored to his earldom. King Edward was much offended with the Prince of Wales for thus harbouring traitors, and therefore, to be revenged upon him, he dispatched Harold again with an army to North Wales, who, coming to Ruthlan, burnt the Prince's palace there, and his fleet that lay in the harbour, and then returned to the king at Gloucester.

This year Edward, the son of Edmund Ironsides, who was sent for out of Hungary, being designed successor to the crown, came to England, but in a short time after his coming died at London, leaving a son named Edgar Edeling, and a daughter named Margaret, who was afterwards Queen of the Scots, and mother to Maud, the wife of Henry the
A. D. 1056. First. About two years after, Roderic, son to Harold King of Denmark, came with a considerable army into Wales, and being kindly received by Prince Gruffydh, united his force with the Welsh, and so entered into England, which they cruelly harassed and laid waste; but before they could advance any considerable distance, Roderic was compelled to sail for Denmark, and Gruffydh returned laden with spoils into Wales. At this time also Harold, Earl Godwyn's son, sailing to Flanders, was driven by force of weather to land at Poytiers, where being taken prisoner, he was brought before William, the bastard Duke of Normandy, to whom he declared the reason of his voyage, that it was purposely to tender him his service in the affairs of England; and so taking an oath, first to marry the Duke's daughter, and after

* Roger Hovedon, pp. 443, 444.—Simon Dunelme, p. 188.—Matth. Westm. p. 324.

after the death of Edward to secure the kingdom of England for him, he was honourably dismissed. Upon his return to England, by the persuasions of Caradoc the son of Gruffydh ap Rytherch, he, with his brother Tosty, raised a great army and entered into South Wales,* which they A. D. 1064. ravaged to such a degree that the Welsh were glad to deliver up hostages for the payment of that tribute which aforetime they used to pay. Gruffydh hearing of the insolencies of the English in South Wales, made every possible haste and preparation to oppose them, but to no purpose;† Harold having already treacherously hired some of Gruffydh's nearest friends to murder him, who watching their opportunity, executed their wicked design and brought his head to Harold.‡ Gruffydh being dead, Harold (by King Edward's orders) appointed Meredith, son of Owen ap Edwyn, Prince of South Wales, and gave the government of North Wales§ to Blethyn and Rywalhon, the sons of Confyn, brothers by the mother's side to Prince Gruffydh, and who probably, for the desire of rule, were accessary to the murder of that noble prince. Thus Gruffydh ap Llewelyn enjoyed the principality of Wales for the space of thirty-four years. He was a prince of incomparable virtues, both wise and valiant, beloved of his subjects and formidable to his enemies, in all his actions behaving himself great and princely; and having valiantly defended his country against all foreign opposition, he was far unworthy of that treacherous and cruel death which his unkind subjects and unnatural friends inflicted upon him. He left issue but one daughter, named Nest, abused first by Fleance son of Bancho, and afterwards married to Trahaern ap Caradoc Prince of North Wales.

BLETHYN AND RYWALHON.

AFTER the deplorable murder of Prince Gruffydh, Meredith, the son of Owen ap Edwyn, who, according to some, was son to Howel Dha, took upon him, as it is said, the government of South Wales, and Blethyn and Rywalhon the sons of Confyn, half-brothers to Gruffydh, as descended from Angharad daughter to Meredith, sometime Prince of Wales,

* Welsh Chron. p. 101. † Ibid.

‡ Together with the prow of the ship in which he returned.—Simon Dunelme, p. 191.

§ And Powys.—Welsh Chron. p. 102.—Simon Dunelme, p. 192.—William Malmsbury, p. 94.

Wales,* entered upon the principality of North Wales; Conan, the son of Iago ap Edwal, the right heir to that crown, being then with his father-in-law in Ireland. This partition of Wales fell much short of the expectation of Caradoc ap Gruffydh ap Rytherch, who being the chief promoter of Harold's making an expedition against Gruffydh ap Llewelyn, had expected to obtain the government of South Wales, in case of Gruffydh being defeated: but it happened otherwise; for Harold being sensible of Caradoc's subtilty and knavery, and doubting whether (if he was made Prince of South Wales) he could obtain a certain lordship nigh Hereford, for which he had a great desire, he made a composition with Meredith ap Owen for the said lordship, and created him Prince of South Wales,† and banished Caradoc out of the country. Harold having obtained the consent of Meredith ap Owen, built a very magnificent house at a place called Portascyth, in Monmouthshire,‡ and storing it with a great quantity of provision, splendidly entertained the King, who honoured him with a visit. It was by no means pleasing to Tosty to see his younger brother in greater esteem and favour with the king than himself; and having concealed his displeasure for a time, he could not forbear at length from evincing his dissatisfaction: accordingly, one day at Windsor, while Harold reached the cup to King Edward, Tosty, ready to burst for envy that his brother was so much respected beyond himself, could not refrain from running furiously upon him, and pulling him by the hair, dragged him to the ground, for which unmannerly action the king forbade him the court:§ but he with continued rancour and malice rode to Hereford, where Harold had many servants preparing an entertainment for the king, and setting upon them with his followers, lopped off the hands and legs of some, the arms and heads of others, and threw them into the butts of wine and other liquors which were put in for the king's drinking, and at his departure charged the servants to acquaint Harold, "That "of other fresh meats he might carry with him what he "pleased, but for sauce he should find plenty provided "ready for him."‖ For this barbarous offence the king pronounced a sentence of perpetual banishment upon Tosty.¶ But Caradoc ap Gruffydh gave a finishing stroke to Harold's house, and to the king's entertainment at Portascyth; for coming thither shortly after Tosty's departure, to be revenged

* William Malmsbury, p. 94. † Welsh Chron. p. 102.
‡ Portaskewith, in Monmouthshire.—Simon Dunelme, p. 192.
§ Simon Dunelme, p. 192. ‖ Matth. Westm p. 331.
¶ Welsh Chron. pp. 104, 105.—Simon Dunelme, p. 192.—Camden's Brit. p. 597.

venged upon Harold, he killed all the workmen and labourers, with all the servants he could find, and utterly defacing the building, carried away all the costly materials which, at a great expense, had been brought thither to beautify and adorn the structure.* Soon after this, the Northumbrians (who could not endure the insolencies of the two brothers Harold and Tosty, who, bearing an uncontroulable sway in the kingdom, were accustomed to practise the most hellish villainies to obtain any man's estate that displeased them,) in a tumult at York beset the palace of Tosty, and having pillaged his treasure, slew all his family, as well Englishmen as Danes. Then joining to themselves the people of Lincoln, Nottingham, and Derbyshire, they elected Marcher the son of Earl Algar their general, to whom came his brother Edwyn with a considerable number of troops, and a great party of Welshmen. Then they marched in a hostile manner to Northampton, where Harold met them, being sent by the king to know their demands; to whom they laid open their grievances, and the cruelty of Tosty's government, and, at last, with an absolute refusal of admitting him again, desired that Marcher should be appointed Earl over them, which the King, upon the reasonable complaints of injuries done by Tosty, easily granted, and willingly confirmed Marcher's title: whereupon they peaceably returned back to the north, and the Welsh, with several prisoners and other booties got in this expedition, returned to Wales.

The year following, King Edward died, and was buried at Westminster, being the last king of the Saxon blood before the conquest that governed the kingdom of England, which from Cerdic King of the West Saxons had continued 544, and from Egbert the first monarch, 171 years. Edward being dead, the next difference was about the election of a successor, Edgar Edeling being set up by some as lawful heir to the crown, which Harold, as being a person of greater power and authority in the kingdom, much wealthier and more befriended, presently thwarted, and brought matters so cunningly about, that himself was chosen king, without any regard observed to the oath and promise he had formerly made to William Duke of Normandy. Duke William upon notice of Harold's advancement, and that he had accepted of the crown of England contrary to the articles between them, convened together his nobles, and laid before them the several wrongs and affronts he had received at the hands of Harold, as the death of his cousin Alfred, the banishment

A. D. 1066. 1st of William the Conqueror.

* Matthew Westm.—Welsh Chron. &c.

banishment of Archbishop Robert, Earl Odan, and all the Normans, and, lastly, the breach of his oath and promise. Then he declared to them the pretence he had to claim the crown of England, that Edward had given him formerly an absolute promise in Normandy, that if ever he enjoyed the English crown, William should be his heir; which title, though in itself weak and insignificant, served William's purpose well enough to make an expedition against an intruder. Duke William's pretence seemed plausible enough to the Norman nobility, but the difficulty of the undertaking and the danger of this expedition was somewhat perplexing, and made them less inclinable to encourage so precipitous an undertaking; which they the more disliked upon the persuasion of William Fitzosbert the Duke's sewer, whom they pitched upon to deliver their thoughts as to the expedition unto the duke; but he, instead of dissuading him from this voyage, politicly declared that himself with all his power were ready to live and die with him in this expedition, which the rest hearing could not but offer the duke their service in the same manner; and so all things were prepared for an invasion of England. In the mean while Tosty, full of indignation at his brother's advancement to the crown, entered the river Humber with forty sail, but meeting with Earl Edwyn, who came to oppose him, he was forced after a considerable encounter to bear off, and secure himself by flight; but meeting with Harold King of Norway upon the coast of Scotland, coming for England with three hundred sail, he joined his forces with Harold, and so both together entering the Humber, they landed their army and marched to York, where the Earls Edwyn and Marcher unsuccessfully gave them battle. Having pillaged and destroyed that city, they passed on to Stamford-bridge, and there met with King Harold, who with a well disciplined army was come to stop their farther career. After a long and terrible fight, and much bloodshed on both sides, the Norwegians began at last to give way, which the English perceiving, fell on so manfully that few or none escaped with their lives, Harold and Tosty being also slain upon the spot. One of the Norwegians is deservedly recorded for his incomparable exploits performed in this battle, who with incredible valour, maintaining the bridge against the whole strength of the English army for above an hour, by his single resistance delayed their victory, and having slain a great number of his enemies, he seemed invincible, till in the end, no one daring to grapple with him fairly, he was run through with a spear from under the bridge, and so by his fall a passage

was

was opened for pursuit to complete the victory. King Harold overjoyed with this success, triumphantly entered into York, and whilst he was making merry with his nobles at a sumptuous feast, news came that Duke William of Normandy was safely landed at, and began to fortify himself in, Hastings, with which tidings being no way dashed, as fearing nothing after his late victory, he forthwith marched towards him, and as soon as he was arrived in Sussex, without any consideration of the fatigue his army had undergone in their march, gave William battle. The Duke, dividing his army into five battalions, made a long harangue to his soldiers, wherein he repeated and commended the noble acts of their ancestors the Danes and Norwegians, who had perpetually vanquished the English and French, and other nations, as many as they had to do with; and that themselves, being well horsed and armed, were now to engage with a people void of both, who had no other defence to trust to, than the nimbleness and swiftness of their heels. Both armies being joined upon the 14th day of October, Duke William, after some hours engaging, ordered his army so to retire, as if they seemed to fly, which the English perceiving, broke their ranks in haste of pursuing the supposed fugitive, which falling out according to the Duke's expectation, he sent in a fresh supply of Normans, who, falling upon the confused battalions of the English, easily overcame them, and Harold receiving first a wound by an arrow was at length slain, and then both the field and the victory were left to the Normans. The day being thus won, William, from this time called the Conqueror, went straight to London, where he was received with all possible formality, and upon Christmas-day solemnly crowned King of England. This change and alteration in England was previously prognosticated by a comet which appeared in the spring of this year, upon which a certain poet made the following verses:

Anno milleno sexageno quoque seno,
Anglorum metæ flammas censere cometæ.

King William having established himself on the throne of England, passed over the next year to Normandy, so to settle affairs there, as afterwards they might have no need of his presence. In the mean while Edgar Edeling, taking advantage of his absence, returned from Scotland to York, being declared king by the inhabitants of the country, who had already slain Robert, upon whom William had bestowed that earldom, with nine hundred of his men. But the king upon his return to Normandy presently marched to the north, A.D. 1066.

north, and having sufficiently revenged himself upon the inhabitants, by wasting and destroying their country, chased Edgar to Scotland again. The like advantage Edric Sylvaticus, the son of Alfric Earl of Mercia, embraced, who refusing to hold any submission to the conqueror, took the opportunity of his departure to Normandy to fall foul upon such as were appointed vicegerents and governors of the kingdom in his absence: whereupon Richard Fitzscrope, governor of the castle of Hereford, with the forces under his command, so much harassed him, by wasting and consuming his lands and carrying off the goods of his tenants, that he was compelled to desire aid of Blethyn and Rywalhon Princes of Wales, by whose help, to recompense the loss he had received, he passed into Hereford, and after that he had over-run and pillaged the country to Wyebridge,* returned back with exceeding great booty. But no sooner were Blethyn and Rywalhon arrived in North Wales, but they received news of a rebellion raised against them by Meredith and Ithel, the sons of Gruffydh ap Lhewelyn, who had drawn together a considerable number of men, upon pretence of recovering the principality of North Wales, which they said was fraudulently detained from them. Blethyn and Rywalhon did not delay going in quest of their enemies, and meeting with them at a place called Mechain,† without any farther ceremony, set upon the rebels, who behaved themselves so gallantly, that after a fight of several hours they wanted nothing but numbers to complete the victory. There fell in this battle on the one side Prince Rywalhon, and on the other Ithel, who being
A. D. 1068. slain, Meredith was forced to give way and endeavour to save himself by flight, which could not secure him, he being so narrowly pursued by Blethyn, that, in fine, he was glad to escape to the mountains, where, for want of victuals and other necessaries, he soon perished, leaving Blethyn ap Confyn sole Prince of North Wales and Powis.‡ During these Welsh disturbances, Swane King of Denmark, and Osburn his brother, with three hundred sail, came up the Humber, and being joined by Edgar Edeling and Earl Waltelfe marched to York, and taking the castle disposed of their forces to winter quarters, betwixt the rivers Ouse and Trent. The king understanding the matter, posted to the north; whose coming so dashed the confederates, that they quickly dispersed their power, and the Danes escaped to their ships, and the king having taken vengeance upon the

* Simon Dunelme, p. 197.—Welsh Chron. p. 109.
† In the present County of Montgomery. ‡ Welsh Chron. p. 109.

the rebellious inhabitants of the country, and, upon his submission, having pardoned Earl Waltelfe, returned back to London.

BLETHYN AP CONFYN.

ABOUT the same time Caradoc, son to Gruffydh ap Rhytherch ap Iestyn, all this while being much dissatisfied that he could not attain to the principality of South Wales, invited over a great number of Normans, to whom he joined all the forces he could raise out of Gwentland, and other parts of Wales. Then attacking Prince Meredith, A. D. 1070. who was far too weak to encounter so considerable an army, gave him an easy overthrow near the river Rymhy,* where Meredith was slain, and so Caradoc obtained the government of South Wales, which for a long time he had endeavoured sinistrously to encompass. He had sometime before procured Harold to make an invasion upon Gruffydh ap Lhewelyn, purposely that himself might arrive at the principality of South Wales; and failing then of his expectation, he now invited over the Normans, not being willing to trust the English any more, by reason that he had so ungratefully been prevented by Harold; so that it seems he cared not by what course, or by whose means he should gain his point; though it were by the ruin and destruction of his country, which hitherto he had earnestly promoted. Being at length advanced to his long expected government of South Wales (which, though not recorded, seems yet very probable, by reason that his son Rhytherch ap Caradoc enjoyed the same very soon after), he did not enjoy this honour long, but dying in a short time after his advancement, left to succeed him his son Rytherch ap Caradoc. At the same time that Caradoc carried on this rebellion in Wales, the Earls Edwyn, Marcher, and Hereward revolted from the King of England; but Edwyn suspecting the success of their affairs, and determining to retire to Malcolm King of Scotland, in his journey thither was betrayed, and slain by his own followers. Then Marcher and Hereward betook themselves to the Isle of Ely, which, though sufficiently fortified, was so warmly besieged by the King, that Marcher and his accomplices were in a short time forced to surrender themselves up prisoners; only Hereward made his escape to Scotland: but the king followed him closely; and

* Prympyn, a river in that country.

and after he had received homage of Malcolm King of Scotland, returned back to England; and after a short stay here, passed over to Normandy, where he received Edgar Edeling again to mercy.

A.D. 1071. The next year the Normans, having already tasted of the sweetness of wasting and plundering a country, came over again to Wales; and having spoiled and destroyed Dyfed and the country of Cardigan, returned home with very great spoil; and the following year sailed over again for more booty. About the same time, Bleythyd, Bishop of St. David's, died, and was succeeded by one Sulien. This was not all the misfortune that befel the Welsh; for Radulph Earl of the East Angles, together with Roger Earl of Hereford and Earl Waltelpe, entered into a conspiracy against King William, appointing the day of marriage between Radulph and Roger's sister, which was to be solemnized in Essex, to treat of and conclude their design.* Radulph's mother was come out of Wales, and, upon that account, he invited over several of her friends and relations to the wedding; meaning chiefly, under the colour of seeming affection, by their help and procurement to bring over the princes and people of Wales, to favour and assist his undertaking;† but King William being acquainted with the whole plot, quickly ruined all their intrigues; and unexpectedly coming from Normandy, surprised the conspirators; excepting Radulph, who either doubted of the success of their affairs, or else had intimation given him of the king's landing, and previously took shipping at Norwich, and fled to Denmark. Waltelpe and Roger were executed, and all the other adherents punished;‡ more particularly the Welsh, some of whom were hanged, others had their eyes put out, and the rest were banished. Soon after, Blethyn ap Confyn Prince of Wales was basely and treacherously murdered by Rhys ap Owen ap Edwyn and the gentlemen of Ystrad Tywy,§ after he had reigned thirteen years: a prince of singular qualifications and virtues, and a great observer of justice and equity towards his subjects; he was very liberal and munificent, being indeed very able, having a prodigious and almost incredible estate, as appears by these verses made upon it:

A.D. 1073. 7th of William the Conqueror.

Blethyn ap Confyn bob Cwys
Ei hun bioedh hen Bowis.

He

* Matth. Paris, p. 7; Watts' edition. † Welsh Chron. p. 111. ‡ Ibid.
§ Welsh Annals, 111.—Owen ap Edwyn was the youngest son of Howel Dhâ.

He had four wives, by whom he had issue as follows, viz.: Meredith by Haer daughter of Gylhyn, his first wife; Lhywarch and Cadogan by the second; Madoc and Riryd by the third; and Iorwerth by his last.*

TRAHAERN AP CARADOC.

BLETHYN being, as is said, traitorously murdered, A.D. 1073. there was no regard had to his issue, as to their right of succession; but Trahaern ap Caradoc his cousin-german, being a person of great power and sway in the country, was unanimously elected Prince of North Wales, and Rhys ap Owen with Rytherch ap Caradoc jointly governed South Wales. Trahaern, indeed, had some pretence to that principality, as having married Nèst, the only surviving issue of that great prince Gruffydh ap Lhewelyn; whose two sons Meredith and Ithel were lately slain in their attempt against Blethyn and Rywalhon; but his title did not secure him in his government so much as his possession, since there was one still living, though not much regarded, who, without any dispute, was true heir and proprietor of the principality of North Wales. This was Gruffydh son to Conan, son to Iago ap Edwal, who being informed of the death of Blethyn ap Confyn, and the advancement of Trahaern, thought this a proper time to endeavour the recovery of what was truly his right, and out of which he had been all this time most wrongfully excluded. Wherefore, having obtained help in Ireland, where he privately sojourned during the reign of Blethyn ap Confyn, from Encumalhon King

* His first wife, Haer, was a widow, very beautiful: she was the daughter and heiress of Gillyn, the son of Blaidd Rhudd, or the bloody wolf of Gêst, in Efionydd. By Cynfyn Hirdref, her first husband, she was grandmother to Ririd, who took the appellation of Blaidd, or the Wolf, as descended from Blaidd Rhudd above mentioned. The famous Howel y pedolau was the son of Gwenllian, daughter to Ririd Flaidd. There is a Welsh poem extant of Cynddelw Brydydd mawr, the great bard, who flourished about the year 1160, on returning thanks to Ririd for a fine sword with which he had presented him.—Yorke's Royal Tribes, p. 128. The following is a translation of a portion of this poem:

"I have a friendly wolf, that stands by me, to crush
The insulting foe. It is not the forest wolf, scattering
The harmless flock, but the wolf of the field of battle;
Though at other times he is mild and liberal."

Mr. Vaughan, of Hengwrt, informs us "that Gruffudd ab Cynan, Rhys ab Tewdwr, and Bleddyn ab Confyn, made diligent search after the arms, ensigns, and pedigrees of their ancestors, the nobility, and kings of the Britons. What they discovered by their pains in any papers and records, was afterwards by the bards digested, and put into books, and they ordained five royal tribes, there being only three before, from whom their posterity to this day can derive themselves; and also fifteen special tribes, of whom the gentry of North Wales are for the most part descended."

King of Ultonia, and from Ranalht and Mathawn, two other kings of that country, he sailed for Wales, and landed in the Isle of Anglesey, which he easily reduced and brought to subjection.* At the same time Cynwric ap Rywalhon, a nobleman of Maelor or Bromfield, was slain in North Wales, but how, or upon what account, is not known. Whilst Gruffydh ap Conan endeavoured to dispossess Trahaern of North Wales, Gronow and Lhewelyn, the sons of Cadwgan ap Blethyn, having united their forces with Caradoc ap Gruffydh ap Rytherch, intended to revenge the murder of their grandfather Blethyn ap Confyn, upon Rhys ap Owen† and Rytherch ap Caradoc, the joint rulers of South Wales; and marching confidently to find them, both armies met together and fought at a place called Camdhwr;‡ where after a severe engagement the sons of Cadwgan at length obtained a complete victory. In North Wales, at the same time, Gruffydh ap Conan having established his possession of the Isle of Anglesey, intended to proceed farther in the main land of Wales; to which end, having transported his forces over the strait, he encamped in the neighbouring country of Carnarvonshire, purposing to reduce North Wales by degrees. Trahaern ap Caradoc being informed of this descent of Gruffydh's, made all possible speed to prevent his farther progress; and having made all necessary preparations that the shortness of the opportunity would permit, he drew up his forces to Bron yr Erw,§ where he gave Gruffydh battle, and in fine forced him to a shameful flight; so that he was glad to retire back safely to Anglesey.‖

A.D. 1074. The next year Rytherch ap Caradoc Prince of South Wales died, being murdered through the unnatural villainy of his cousin-german Meyrchaon ap Rhys ap Rytherch; after whom Rhys ap Owen obtained the sole government of South Wales: but his enjoyment of the whole of that principality was not very lasting, and scarcely at all void of

1075. the trouble and vexation of war. For shortly after the death of Caradoc, the sons of Cadwgan, thinking they might now easily foil and vanquish one, seeing they had some time ago victoriously overcome both princes together, with all the forces they could raise, set upon Rhys at a place called Gwanyffyd, who not being able to combat their numbers, was routed and forced to flee; however the blow was not so mortal but that Rhys gathered together new levies, by the help

* Welsh Chron. p. 112.—It may be proper here to remark, that though the lineal succession was frequently interrupted, yet the Welsh always paid a regard to the same royal blood, except in the instance of Ædan ap Blegored.

† Of the Royal House of South Wales. ‡ Camddwr, in Cardiganshire.

§ Near to the Castle of Harlech, in Merionydh. ‖ Welsh Chron. p. 113.

help of which he was emboldened still to maintain himself in his principality.* Fortune, however, which had advanced him to the crown, seemed now to frown at and cross all his endeavours and undertakings, and being reduced to a very weak condition in the last battle, he was attacked by a fresh enemy before he could have sufficient time to recover and recruit himself. For Trahaern ap Caradoc, Prince of North Wales, perceiving the weakness and inability of Rhys to make opposition against any foreign enemy that invaded his territories, thought it now very feasible to obtain the conquest of South Wales, and then to annex it to his own principality of North Wales; and, being induced by these imaginations, he dispatched his army to South Wales to fight with Rhys, who, with all the forces he could possibly levy, as laying his whole fortune upon the event of this battle, boldly met him at Pwllhgwttic, where, after a tedious fight on both sides, Rhys having lost the best part of his army, was put to flight, and so warmly pursued, that after long shifting from place to place, himself with his brother Howel fell at length into the hands of Caradoc ap Gruffydh, who put them both to death, in revenge of the base murder of Blethyn ap Confyn, by them previously committed.† The principality of South Wales being thus vacant by the death of Rhys ap Owen; Rhys son to Theodore ap Eineon ap Owen ap Howel Dha,‡ as lawful heir to that government, put in his claim, which being very plain and evident, so prevailed with the people of that country, that they unanimously elected him for their prince,§ much against the expectation of Trahaern ap Caradoc, Prince of North Wales. The next year St. David's suffered greatly by strangers, who landing there in a considerable number, spoiled and A.D. 1077. destroyed the whole town, shortly after which barbarous action Abraham, bishop of that see, died; and then Sulien, who the year before had relinquished and resigned that bishoprick, was compelled to resume it.

The government of all Wales, both North and South, had 1079. been now for a long time supplied by usurpers, and forcibly detained from the right and legal inheritors; but Providence would not suffer injustice to reign any longer, and therefore

* Welsh Chron. p. 113.—*Vita Griff. Conani:* a Manuscript Life of that Prince, written in the Welsh language, as is supposed, near the time in which he lived.

† Welsh Chron. p. 113.—Bleddyn—Strength of the army.

‡ Ab Cadel ab Rhodri Mawr ab Mervyn Vrych ab Gwriad ab Elidyr ab Sandde ab Alser ab Tegid ab Gwyar ab Dwywg ab Llywarch Hên ab Elidyr Llydanwyn ab Meirchion Gul ab Grwst Ledlwm ab Coneu ab Coel Godebog. Rhys ab Tewdwr was the founder of our second Royal Tribe.

§ Welsh Chron. p. 114.

therefore restored the rightful heirs to the principalities. Rhys ap Theodore had actual possession of South Wales,* and there wanted no more at this time but to bring in Gruffydh ap Conan to the principality of North Wales; both these princes being indisputably right and lawful heirs to their respective governments, as lineally descended from Roderic the Great, who was legal proprietor of all Wales. Gruffydh ap Conan had already reduced the isle of Anglesey, but not being able to levy a sufficient army from thence to oppose Trahaern, he invited over a great party of Irish and Scots, and then with his whole army joined with Rhys ap Theodore, Prince of South Wales. Trahaern in like manner associating to himself Caradoc ap Gruffydh and Mailyr the son of Rywalhon ap Gwyn his cousins-german, the greatest and most powerful men then in Wales, drew up his forces together with resolution to fight them. Both armies meeting upon the mountains of Carno,† which proved the more fierce and bloody, by reason that both parties resolutely referred their whole fortune to the success of their arms, and life would prove vain if the day was lost. But after a bloody fight on both sides, the victory fell at last to Gruffydh and Rhys, Trahaern with his cousins being all slain in the field,‡ after whose death Gruffydh took possession of North Wales; and so the rule of all Wales, after a tedious interval, was again restored to the right line. About the same time Urgeney ap Sitsylht, a person of noble quality in Wales, was treacherously murdered by the sons of Rhys Sais, or the Englishman; by which name the Welsh were accustomed to denominate all persons who either had lived any considerable time in England, or could fluently and handsomely speak the English tongue.

GRUFFYDH

* According to Mr. Vaughan, of Hengwrt, the immediate territories of this prince were the counties of Cardigan and Caermarthen; as Pembroke, Brecknock, Gwent or Monmouthshire, and Glewising or Herefordshire, were governed by their several reguli: though there is no doubt but all these acknowledged the sovereign authority of South Wales.—British Ant. Revived, pp. 7, 8.—Welsh Chron. p. 114.

† In South Wales, called Mynydd Carn, on account of a large Carnedd upon it, covering the remains of a great warrior, who had, in ancient times, been slain and buried there.

‡ *Vita fil. Griff. Conani.*—Welsh Chron. p. 114.

GRUFFYDH AP CONAN.

GRUFFYDH ap Conan being established in the principality of North Wales, and Rhys ap Theodore in that of South Wales; there was no one that could create them any molestation or disturbance upon the account of their right, which was unquestionably just; so that they quietly enjoyed for some time their respective dominions, without apprehension of any pretender: indeed, it had seldom been known before, but that one of the princes was an usurper; and particularly in North Wales, where, from the time of Edwal Foel, none had legally ascended to the crown, excepting Edwal the son of Meyric, eldest son to Edwal Foel, in whose line the undoubted title of North Wales lawfully descended: and the right line being now restored in Gruffydh ap Conan, the same legally continued to Lhewelyn ap Gruffydh, the last prince of the British blood. During these revolutions in Wales, some things memorable were transacted in England; Malcolm King of the Scots descending into Northumberland, ravaged and destroyed the country without mercy, carrying away a great number of prisoners; after which the Northumbrians fell upon Walter Bishop of Durham, whom they slew, together with a hundred men, whilst he sate keeping his court, not anticipating any such treacherous villainy. At the same time Robert Curthoys, the Bastard's eldest son, being for some reason disgusted against his father, and instigated by the King of France, entered Normandy with an army and claimed it as his right, which King William being acquainted with, passed over to Normandy, and meeting with his son hand to hand in battle, was by him overthrown. Returning from Normandy he entered with a great army into Wales, and marching after the manner of a pilgrimage as far as St. David's, he offered and paid his devotion to that saint,* and afterwards received homage of the kings and princes of the country. About the same time the tomb of Walwey, King Arthur's sister's son, a most valiant person in his time, and governor of that country, from him called Walwethey, was discovered in the country of Rhos, nigh the sea-shore, whose skeleton proved monstrously prodigious, being in length about fourteen feet. A.D. 1079. 13th of William the Conqueror.

This year Madawc, Cadwgan, and Riryd, the sons of Blethyn ap Confyn some time Prince of Wales, raised a rebellion A.D. 1086.

* Welsh Chron. p. 115.

rebellion against Rhys ap Tewdwr,* and having drawn together a great number of licentious and discontented people, thought to eject him out of the principality of South Wales. Rhys had not power and forces enough to oppose them; while the rebel army increased daily by the addition of the discontented multitude, who always rejoice at any new commotion or disturbance, and therefore he was compelled to retire to Ireland, where he obtained a very considerable party of Irish and Scots upon promise of a sufficient reward in the event of his being restored to his principality. Having by this measure obtained a large increase to his former strength, he landed in South Wales, the news of whose arrival being spread abroad, his friends from all quarters presently assembled about him, so that in a short time his army became numerous, and able to confront the enemy. The rebels were aware how the Prince's forces daily multiplied, and therefore to prevent any farther addition, they made all possible haste to force him to a battle, which in a short time after happened at Lhech y Creu,† where the rebels were vanquished; Madawc and Riryd being slain, and Cadwgan glad to save his life by flight. Rhys having won so signal a victory, and fearing no farther disturbance, dismissed the Irish and Scots with great rewards, who honourably returned to their own country. Within a while after, an unaccountable sacrilege was committed at St. David's, the shrine belonging to the cathedral being feloniously conveyed out of the church, all the plate and other utensils were stolen, and only the shrine left empty behind. The same year a civil war‡ broke out in England, and several armies in several parts of the kingdom were up in array at the same time, and amongst the rest the Welsh, who entering into Gloucester and Worcester shires, burnt and destroyed all before them to the gate of Worcester.§ The king having drawn his army together, proceeded against his enemies by degrees, and falling upon their separate parties, without any great difficulty reduced all to
A. D. 1089. obedience. Within two years after, Archbishop Sulien, the most pious and learned person in Wales, died, in the eightieth year of his age, and in the sixteenth year of his bishoprick; soon after whose death the town of St. David's suffered a more apparent calamity, being first plundered, and afterwards burnt by a company of pirates, who

* Welsh Chron. p. 117. † Lhechayd, in Radnorshire.

‡ Excited by the Earls of Hereford and Shrewsbury.

§ Called by the Romans Brangonia; by the Britons Caer-Vrangon; and by the Saxons Worcester.—Humffrey Lhuyd, p. 26.—Annales Waverlenses, p. 136.—Simon Dunelme, p. 214.—Matth. Paris. p. 12.—Welsh Chron. p. 118.

who much infested the British coasts. About the same time also died Cadifor the son of Calhoyn Lord of Dyfed, whose sons Lhewelyn and Eineon moved Gruffydh ap Meredith to take up arms against his sovereign Prince Rhys ap Tewdwr, with whom they joined all the forces they could levy among their tenants and dependants; then passing with their army to Lhandydoch,* boldly challenged Rhys to fight; who thereupon gave them battle, and after a resolute engagement on both sides, the rebels were at length worsted, and put to flight, and so closely pursued, that Gruffydh ap Meredith was taken prisoner, and executed as a traitor:† but Eineon made his escape, and not venturing to trust himself with any of his own kindred, he fled to Iestyn ap Gwrgant‡ Lord of Morgannwc,§ who was then in actual rebellion against Prince Rhys; and to ingratiate himself the more in Iestyn's favour, he entered into conditions for the performance of certain articles, one of which more especially was, that he should receive his daughter in matrimony; that he would bring over to his aid a considerable body of Normans, with whom he was intimately acquainted, as having served a long time in England. These articles being agreed to and recorded, Eineon posted to England, and in a little time brought matters so about, that he prevailed with Robert Fitzhamon and twelve more knights to levy a strong army of Normans, and to come to Wales to the protection and aid of Iestyn. The beginning A. D. 1090.
of the following year they landed in Glamorganshire, and were honourably received by Iestyn, who, joining his power to theirs, marched to Prince Rhys's dominions, where, without the least shew of mercy to his own countrymen, he encouraged the Normans by his own example to spoil and destroy all that came before them. Prince Rhys was much grieved to find his country so unmercifully harassed; and though at this time very old, being above ninety-eight years of age, he would not refrain from meeting his enemies; and having with all possible speed raised an army, he met with them near Brecknock, where, after a terrible fight and a 1091.
great slaughter on both sides, he was unhappily slain.‖ With him fell the glory and grandeur of the principality of South Wales; for it was afterwards rent in pieces and divided

* In the county of Pembroke. † Welsh Chron. p. 119.

‡ Iestyn ap Gwrgant was the founder of the fourth Royal Tribe of Wales, and descended in the twenty-ninth generation, from the illustrious Caractacus.—"A sorry slip," says Mr. Yorke, "from such a stock."—The Silurian prince had defended his country from foreign enemies: his descendant introduced them to enslave it.—Royal Tribes, p. 129.

§ The territory of Morgannwg or Morgan.

‖ Upon the Black Mountain near Brecknock.—Humffrey Lhuyd, p. 80.—Polydore Vergil, lib. x. p. 171.

divided into several parts by piecemeal among the Norman captains, as is hereafter more particularly related. Prince Rhys left issue by the daughter of Rywalhon ap Confyn, two sons, Gruffydh and Grono, the latter of whom was detained prisoner by the King of England;* though the author of the winning of the lordship of Glamorgan affirms that he was slain together with his father in this battle against the Normans.

The Normans having received a sufficient reward from Iestyn, on account of their service against Prince Rhys, returned to their ships, in order to their voyage homeward; but before they could loose anchor to sail off, Eineon recalled them, being ungratefully affronted by Iestyn, who absolutely refused to make good to him the conditions which they had agreed upon before the Normans were invited to Wales. On this account, Eineon was so irreconcileably incensed against Iestyn, that, to be revenged upon him, he was willing to sacrifice his native country into the hands of strangers; and therefore persuaded the Normans as to the fertility of the country, and how easily they might conquer and make themselves masters of it. But it needed not many arguments to persuade a people that were willing of themselves, and more especially when encouraged thereto by a person of some esteem in the country; wherefore, without any more questions, they presently fell to their business; and from friends became unexpectedly foes. Iestyn was much surprised to find the Normans, whom he had but lately honourably dismissed from his service, and, as he thought with satisfaction, so soon become his enemies; but perceiving a serpent in the hedge, by Eineon being upon such friendly terms among them, he quickly guessed at the reason, of which there was no remedy left, and for which he had to bewail the needless folly of his own knavery. The Normans easily dispossessed Iestyn of the whole lordship of Glamorgan;† the most pleasant and fertile part of which they divided among themselves; leaving the more mountainous and craggy ground to the share of Eineon;‡ but as Sir Edward Stradling, a descendant from one of Eineon's Norman associates, hath left a particular and interesting account of this expedition, and of the principal persons engaged in it, I shall here insert his statement.

The

* Humffrey Lhuyd's Brev. p. 81.—Welsh Chron. p. 120.

† Humffrey Lhuyd's Brev. p. 80.—Welsh Chron. p. 120.—From Ran. Cest. lib. vii. cap. 7.—Marianus Scotus.

‡ Camden's Britannia, p. 602; Gibson's Edit.—Humffrey Lhuyd's Breviary, p. 80.—Welsh Chron. p. 120.

The winning of the Lordship of Glamorgan or Morgannwc out of the Welshmen's Hands, and first of the Description of the same Lordship.

[Reprinted from the Edition of 1584.]

IN primis, the said lordship in length from Rymny bridge on the east side, to Pwlh Conan on the west side, is 27 miles. The breadth thereof from the haven of Aburthaw alias Aberdaon, on the south side, to the confines of Bredinockshire, above Morleys castle, is 22 miles. 1

Item the same lordship, being a lordship marcher, or a lordship royal, and holden of no other lordship, the lords ever since the winning of the same, owing their obedience only to the crown, have used therein jura regalia: that is, the trial of all actions, as well real as personal, with pleas of the crown, and authority to pardon all offences, treason only excepted. 2

Item there were 11 lordships, to wit, Senghennyth, Myskyn, Ruthin, Lhanblethian, Tir Iarlh, Glyn Rothney, Auan, Neth, Coyty, Talauan and Lhantuit alias Bouiarton, that were members of the said lordship of Glamorgan. In every of the members were the like jura regalia used in all things, saving that if any wrong judgement were given in any of the courts of the said members, it should be reversed by a writ of false judgement in the county court of Glamorgan, as superior court to the said members. Also all matters of conscience happening in debate in any of the said members, should be heard and determined in the chancery of Glamorgan, before the chancellor thereof. 3

Item, the body of the said lordship of Glamorgan was (before the alteration of the laws in Wales) a county of itself, wherein the lord had two castles and three market towns, to wit, the castle and town of Kynfigs, alias Kefnffigen, in the west part thereof, and Cowbridge town, alias Pont vaen, in the middest. And the town and castle of Cardyff, or Caer-Dhydh, in the east part, in which castle of Cardyff, the lord did most inhabit; and therein he had his Chancery and Exchequer, and a fair court house, wherein the county court was monthly kept on the Monday for all the suiters of the shrievalty, that is, of the body of the said lordship itself, without the said members. 4

Item, within the said shrievalty, or body of the said lordship, were 18 castles, and 36 knight's fees and an half, that held 5

held of the said lordship of Glamorgan by knights service, besides a great number of freeholders.

Item, in eight of the said members were ten castles and four borough towns.

7 The value of the seniory, before the purchase thereof.

Item, the annual revenues of the said lordship with the members, was 1000 marks, whereof was allowed in fees 400 marks; of the which members aforesaid, John Gamage, Esq. occupieth one at this day, descended unto him from the Turberuiles, his ancestors, that is to wit, the lordship of Coytie; and the heir of John Bassett enjoyeth another, to wit, the lordship of Talauan, by purchase from King Edward the sixth. The other nine members, with four of the aforesaid knights fees, and all the castles, market towns, and borough towns, with the demesnes of the same; and all the lands that were in the lords hands, parcel of the said lordship and members, the earl of Pembroke hath purchased.

The value of the seniory now

So that there remaineth now to the senior of the said lordship of Glamorgan (being in the Queen's Majesty's hands) but the moity only of the manor of Dynaspowys, of the value of 26 pounds by the year.

The Manner of the winning of the said Lordship.

A. D. 1091. IN the year of our Lord 1091, and in the fourth year of the reign of King William Rufus, one Iestyn, the son of Gurgant, being lord of the said lordship of Glamorgan, Rees ap Tewdwr, prince of South Wales, that is, of Caermarthyneshire and Cardiganshire, made war upon him. Whereupon the said Iestyn, understanding himself unable to withstand the said Rees without some aid otherwise, sent one Eneon, a gentleman of his, to England, to one Robertus Fitzhamon, a worthy man, and knight of the privy chamber with the said king, to retain him for his succour. The which Robert, being desirous to exercise himself in the feats of war, agreed soon with him thereto for a salary to him granted for the same. Whereupon the said Robert Fitzhamon retained to his service for the said journey, twelve knights, and a competent number of soldiers, and went into Wales, and joining there with the power of the said Iestyn, fought with the said Rees ap Tewdwr and killed him, and one Conan his son. After which victory, the said Robert Fitzhamon, minding to return home again with his company, demanded his salary to him due of the said Iestyn, according to the covenants and promises agreed upon

upon between him and the aforesaid Eneon, on the behalf of the said Iestyn, his master. The which to perform in all points the said Iestyn denied; and thereupon they fell out, so that it came to be tried by battle. And, for so much as the said Eneon saw his master go from divers articles and promises that he had willed him to conclude with the said Robert Fitzhamon, on his behalf, he forsook his master, and took part, he and his friends, with the said Robert Fitzhamon. In the which conflict, the said Iestyn with a great number of his men were slain, whereby the said Robert Fitzhamon won the peaceable possession of the whole lordship of Glamorgan, with the members, of the which he gave certain castles and manors, in reward of service, to the said twelve knights, and to other his gentlemen.

The Names and Sirnames of the said Twelve Knights were these.

1. WILLIAM de Londres *alias* London.
2 Richardus de Grana villa *alias* Greenfeeld.
3 Paganus de Turberuile.
4 Robertus de S. Quintino *alias* S. Quintine.
5 Richardus de Syward.
6 Gilbertus de Humfrevile.
7 Rogerus de Berkrolles.
8 Reginaldus de Sully.
9 Peter le Soore.
10 Johannes le Fleming.
11 Oliverus de S. John, a younger brother of the Lord S. John, of Basing.
12 William le Esterling, whose ancestors came out of Danske to England with the Danes, and is now by shortness of speech called Stradling.

The Parcels given by the said Robert Fitzhamon to the said Twelve Knights and others, in Reward of Service.

IN primis, to the said William de Londres, the said Robert Fitzhamon gave the castle and manor of Ogmor, being four knights' fees; now parcel of the possessions of the duchy of Lancaster. 1 Ogmor.

Item, to the forenamed Sir Richard Greenfeeld, he gave the castle and lordship of Neth, being one of the members aforesaid; and now parcel of the possessions of the Right Hon. the Earl of Penbroke. 2 Neth.

Item,

3 Coyty. Item, to Sir Paine Turberuile, he gave the castle and lordship of Coyty, being another of the said members; and now parcel of the possessions of John Gamage, Esq.

4 Lhan Blethyan. Item, to Sir Robert S. Quintine he gave the castle and lordship of Lhan Blethan, being another of the said members; and now parcel of the possessions of S. William Herbert, of Swansey, Knt.

5 Talauan. Item, to Sir Richard Syward, he gave the castle and lordship of Talauan, being another of the said members; and now parcel of the possessions of Anthony Maunsell, Esq.

6 Penmarke. Item, to Sir Gilbert Humfrevile, he gave the castle and manor of Penmarke, being three knights' fees; now parcel of the possessions of the Right Hon. Lord St. John, of Bledso.

7 Sully. Item, to Sir Reginald de Sully, he gave the castle and manor of Sully, so since called after his name, being two knights' fees; now divided betwixt the Earl of Penbroke, and the Lord St. John, of Bledso.

8 East Orchard. Item, to Sir Roger Berkrolles, he gave the manor of East Orchard, being one knight's fee; now parcel of the possessions of S. William Herbert, of Swansey.

9 Peterton. Item, to Sir Peter le Soore, he gave the castle and manor of Peterton, so now called after his name, being one knight's fee; now parcel of the possessions of the Earl of Penbroke.

10 S. George. Item, to Sir John Fleming, he gave the castle and manor of St. George, being one knight's fee; and holden of his posterity the Flemings to this day.

11 Fonmon. Item, to Sir John St. John, he gave the castle and manor of Fonmon or Fenuon, being one knight's fee; and now parcel of the possessions of the Lord St. John, of Bledso.

12 S. Donat's. Item, to Sir William le Esterling *alias* Stradling, he gave the castle and manor of St. Donats or St. Denwit, being one knight's fee; now parcel of the possessions of Sir Edward Stradling, Knt. that now is.

Sum. Four Lordships Members, and Thirteen Knights Fees.

13 ITEM, he gave to the aforesaid Eneon, that took his part, the lordship of Senghennyth, being another of the said members.

14 Item, he gave the castle and lordship of Auan, another of the said members, to Caradoc Fitz Iestyn, the eldest son of the said Iestyn.

Item,

Item, he gave the lordship of Ruthyn, another of the said members, to another son of the said Iestyn. 15

Item, the rest of the foresaid knights' fees, being twenty-two and an half, he distributed part to gentlemen that served him, and part to the Welshmen, right owners of the same. 16

The Portion that the Lord kept for himself and his Heirs.

THE castle of Cardyff and Kenfigg, with the foresaid three market towns of Cardyff, Kenfigg, and Cowbrige, and the shrievalty, being a body of the said lordship of Glamorgan, and all the demesnes of the same, with the rest of the said members; to wit, Miskyn, Glynrothney, Tyr Iarl, and Boviarton *alias* Lentwit: and the chief seniory of the whole the said Robert Fitzhamon kept to himself. And in the said lordship of Boviarton he had a large grange or house of husbandry, with the lands to the same belonging, that served him for the provision of corn to his house. He dwelt himself most in the said castle or town of Cardyff, being a fair haven town. And because he would have the aforesaid twelve knights and their heirs give attendance upon him every county day (which was always kept by the sheriff in the utter ward of the said castle, on the Monday monthly as is before said) he gave every one of them a lodging within the said utter ward, the which their heirs, or those that purchased the same of their heirs, do enjoy at this day.

Also the morrow after the county day, being the Tuesday, the lord's chancellor sat always in the chancery there, for the determining of matters of conscience in strife, happening as well in the said shrievalty as in the members; the which day also, the said knights used to give attendance upon the lord; and the Wednesday every man drew homeward, and then began the courts of the members to be kept in order, one after another.

The Pedigree of Robert Fitzhamon, and of his Heirs, Lords of Glamorgan.

1 THE said Robert Fitzhamon, was son to Hamon, a great lord, and kinsman of William the Conqueror, who

Some do affirm that he was lord of Astrevile in Normandy.

who came into the realm with him. This Robert (as is before said) was knight of the privy chamber with King William Rufus; who (as it appeareth in the Chronicles) dreamed the night before the king was killed, that he saw the king torn in pieces by wolves; and therefore, by his persuasion, he willed the king to forbear to go abroad that forenoon. But the king, when he had dined, there was no man able to stay him, but that he would ride forth a hunting into the new forest, where he was slain by Walter Tyrrel, by the glancing of his arrow shooting at a red deer.

Matt. West. lib. 2, p. 21. I. Castor. Matt. Paris, page 22.

2 Mawd, the only daughter and heiress of the said Robert, was married to Robert, Earl of Glocester, base son to King Henry the First.

3 William, Earl of Glocester, son to the said Robert and Mawd, died without issue male, leaving behind him three daughters, of the which, Isabel, the eldest, was married to King John, then Earl of Oxenford and Lancaster, (as some chronicles do declare,) who, so soon as he was made king was divorced from her, and then she was married to Geffrey Mandevile, Earl of Essex, and died without issue, as far as I can find.

4 The second daughter named Amicia, was married to Sir Gilbart de Clare, then Earl of Clare, by whom he had the earldom of Glocester: and Mabile, the third daughter, was married to the Earl of Eureux.

5 Sir Gilbart de Clare, son to the said Gilbart, was the fourth Earl of Glocester.

6 Sir Richard de Clare's son was the fifth Earl.

7 Sir Gilbart's son was the sixth Earl.

8 Sir Gilbart's son, who married Jane de Acres, daughter to King Edward I. was the seventh Earl.

9 Sir Gilbart de Clare their son was the eighth Earl, and he was slain by the Scots in King Edward the Second's time; and then the earldom fell between his three sisters. Of the which, Elianor, the eldest, was married to Hugh Spencer, the son, in her right Earl of Glocester. Margaret, the second, was married to Peires Gaueston, and after to the Lord Awdeley. Elizabeth, the third, was married first to William, Lord Burgh, Earl of Ulster, and after to Ralph Roch, Baron of Armoy, in Ireland; she was married the third time to Theobald L. Verdoun, and lastly to Sir Roger Damory, and had issue by every one of them.

10 Sir Hugh Spencer had to his wives purpartee the said lordship of Glamorgan.

11

11 Sir Hugh, Lord Spencer, their son, enjoyed the same, and died without issue.

12 Edward, Lord Spencer, son to Edward, brother to the said Hugh, succeeded the said Hugh therein.

13 Thomas, Lord Spencer, his son, succeeded him.

14 Richard, Lord Spencer, his son, succeeded him, and died in ward.

15 Isabell, sister to Richard, succeeded him, and married with Richard Beauchamp, Earl of Worcester, and Lord Burgavenny, who had issue by her a daughter only, and died. The which daughter was married to Edward, the son of Dawraby, Ralph Neuel, Earl of Westmoreland. And after the death of the said Earl of Worcester, the said Isabell married with Richard Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick.

16 Henry Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, and after Duke of Warwick, their son, died without issue.

17 Anne, his sister of whole blood succeeded him, and married with Richard Neuel, after Earl of Salisburie, and in her right Earl of Warwick, and had issue two daughters, Mary, married to the Duke of Clarence, and Anne, married first to Prince Edward, slain at Teuxburie, and after his death with Richard, Duke of Glocester, who was afterwards King of England.

18 The said Anne and King Richard (being then Duke of Glocester) had the said lordship given unto them by the said Anne, Countess of Warwick, her mother.

19 King Henry the Seventh enjoyed the same after the death of King Richard.

20 Iasper, Duke of Bedford, enjoyed the same by the gift of King Henry the Seventh, and died without issue; and by reason thereof it remained to the king again.

21 King Henry the Eighth enjoyed the same after his father.

22 King Edward the Sixth succeeded him therein, and sold almost all the lands thereof.

23 Queen Mary succeeded him in the seniory.

24 Queen Elizabeth our most dread sovereign that now is, doth succeed her in the same seniory, and hath sold the lordship of Neth from it; so that now there remain no more lands appertaining to the seniory, but the moity of the manor of Deinaspowys only.

37877

The

The Pedigree of Londres, Lord of Ogmore, one of the said Twelve.

1 WILLIAM LONDRES, lord of the castle and manor of Ogmore, (as is before said,) won afterwards the lordships of Kydwelhey and Carnewilhion, in Carmarthenshire, from the Welshmen; and gave to Sir Arnold Butler his servant, the castle and manor of Dunreeven, in the lordship of Ogmore aforesaid. The which ever since hath continued in the heirs male of the said Arnold Butler, until within these few years that it fell to Walter Vaghan, sister's son to Arnold Butler, the last of the Butlers that was owner thereof.

2 Simon de Londres, his son, succeeded him.

3 William de Londres succeeded his father Simon, and had issue one son.

4 Moris de Londres, his son, succeeded him, and had issue one only daughter.

5 The said daughter married with one Seward, a man of great possessions.

6 They had issue a daughter only, married to Henrie, Earl of Lancaster, brother to Thomas, Earl of Lancaster.

7 Henrie their son, made afterwards Duke of Lancaster, did succeed them; and so the said three lordships, Ogmore, Kydwelhey, and Carnewilhion, became parcels of the Duchy of Lancaster ever after.

The Pedigree of Greenefeeld.

SIR Richard Greenefeeld before said, (to whom the lordship of Neth was given in reward,) was lord of the castle and manor of Bydyford, in Devonshire, at the time he came into Wales with the said Robert Fitzhamon, and founded an abby of white monks in Neth, and gave the whole lordship to the maintenance of the same, and then returned back again to Bydyford, whereat the issue male of his body doth yet remain, and enjoyeth the same.

The Pedigree of Turberuile, Lord of Coyty.

1 SIR Paine Turberuile, Lord of Coyty, as is before said.

2 Sir Simon Turberuile succeeded him, and died without issue.
3 Sir Gilbart Turberuile succeeded his brother.
4 Sir Paine Turberuile, his son, succeeded him, and married Mawd, daughter and sole heir to Morgan Gam, one of the nephews of the aforesaid Iestyn.
5 Sir Gilbart, their son, quartered Iestyn's arms with Turberuile's.
6 Sir Gilbart, his son, succeeded him.
7 Sir Richard, his son, succeeded him.
8 Sir Paine, his son, succeeded him, who married with Wenlhian, daughter to Sir Richard Talbot, Knt. and had issue by her two sons, that is to wit, Gilbart and Richard; and four daughters, namely, Catharine, Margaret, Agnes, and Sara.
9 Sir Gilbart succeeded Sir Paine his father.
10 Sir Gilbart, his son, succeeded him, and died without issue.
11 Sir Richard, his father's brother, succeeded him, and having no issue, entailed the lordship of Coyty to the heirs male of Sir Roger Berkerolles, Knt.
1 Sir Roger Berkerolles, Knt. son to Sir William Berkerolles, Knt. and Phelice his wife, one of the daughters of Veere, Earl of Oxenford, which said Sir Roger had married Catharine, the eldest sister of the said Sir Richard. And for default of such issue, the remainder to the heirs male of Sir Richard Stakepoole,
2 Knt. who married with Margaret, second sister of the said Richard. And for default of such issue, the remainder to the heirs of Sir John de la Beare, Knt.
3 and Agnes his wife, the third sister to the said Richard. And for lack of such issue male, the remainder to the
4 heirs male of William Gamage, and of Sara his wife, the fourth sister to the said Sir Richard Turberuile.

The said Berkrolles, Stakepoolle, and De la Beare, died without issue male,* by reason whereof, after the death

* Robert, the only brother of the said Sir Richard Stacpoole, married a daughter of Sir John Sitsylt or Cecill.

Sir William Stacpoole, his eldest son, married a daughter of Howel ap Ithel, Lord of Roos and Ryuonioc, now Denbighland. The said Sir William Stacpoole had a command in an army, raised in the reign of King Stephen, against David, King of Scots, but died young, leaving three sons and one daughter.

Sir Richard Stacpoole, his eldest son, of Stacpoole, in the county of Pembrooke, married a daughter of Sir Henry Vernon, of Haddon, in the Peke.

No mention is made of the second son; but Robert, the youngest son, encouraged by his cousin Robert Fitzstephen, went over to Ireland with Richard, Earl of Strigule, known by the name of Strongbow, and was a captain of archers in that division of the army that Fitzstephen

death of Sir Laurence Berkerolles, Knt. son to the said Sir Roger, and Catharine his wife; the said lordship fell to Sir William Gamage, son to Gilbert, son to the foresaid William Gamage, and Sara. The said William was son to Sir Robert Gamage, Knt. son to Paine Gamage, lord of the manor of Rogiade, in the county of Monmowth. The foresaid Sir William had issue Thomas, Thomas had issue John, John had issue Morgan, Morgan had issue Sir Thomas Gamage, Knt. and Margaret, wife to Ienkin Thomas, and Anne, wife to Robert Raglan, and Catharine, wife to Reginald ap Howel, and Wenlhian, wife to Thomas ap Meyric.

The said Sir Thomas Gamage had issue Robert Gamage, that late was; Catharine his eldest daughter, wife to Sir Thomas Stradling, Knt. Marie the second daughter, wife to Matthew Herebert; Margaret the third daughter, wife to the Lord William Howard; and Elizabeth the fourth daughter, wife to Richard Hogan, of Penbrookeshire, Esq. The said Robert Gamage had issue John Gamage, that now is.

1 Sole heir general to the said Sir Roger Berkrolles, Knt. and Catharine, one of the four sisters, and heirs general to the aforesaid Sir Richard Turberuile, Knt. is Sir Edward Stradling, Knt. that now is.

2 Sole heir general to the said Sir Richard Stakepoole, of Penbrookeshire, and Margaret his wife, another of the four sisters, and heirs general to the said Sir Richard Turberuille, Knt. is Sir George Vernon, Knt.

3 Heirs general to the said Sir John de la Beare, Knt. and Agnes his wife, another of the four sisters, and heirs general of the said Sir Richard Turberuille, Knt. are Oliuer S. John, Lord S. John, of Bledso, and William Basset, of Glamorgan, Esq. that now is.

4 John Gamage, Esq. that now is, is as well heir general lineally descended from Sara the fourth sister, and heir to the said Sir Richard Turberuile, Knt. as also heir by the entail aforesaid, to the whole lordship of Coyty.

Robert

Fitzstephen commanded under Strongbow, in the year 1168, the fourteenth year of King Henry the Second.

The said Robert Stacpoole after settled in Ireland, and his lineal descendant has a large property in the county of Clare, in that kingdom.

The old mansion of Stacpoole Court, and a large estate in Pembrokeshire, descended to a grand-daughter of the second Sir Richard Stacpoole, and became the property of the son of the late Pryse Campbell, Esq. who was member for that county, and died in 1769.

Robert de S. Quintine, his Pedigree.

SIR Robert de S. Quintine, to whom the lordship of Lhanblethian was given, and his issue male enjoyed the same until King Henry the Third's time. And then, or in a short time after, his issue male failed, of whom is descended Sir William Parr, late Marquis of Northampton.

Richard de Syward, his Pedigree.

SIR Richard Syward, to whom the lordship of Talauan was given, and his issue male, enjoyed the same until King Edward the Third's time; at which time the heirs thereof having other lands in Somersetshire, sold the said lordship to the Lord Spencer, then Lord of Glamorgan, and went into Somersetshire to dwell there, where his issue male continueth yet.

Gilbert de Humfreuile, his Pedigre.

SIR Gilbert Humfreuile aforesaid, to whom the castle and manor of Penmarke was given, and his issue male, enjoyed the same till the said King Edward the Third's time; and then the inheritance of the said castle and manor descended to Sir John S. John, of Fonmon, Knt. to whom the forenamed Lord S. John, of Bledso, is sole heir.

Roger de Berkerolles, Knt. his Pedigree.

SIR Roger Berkerolles aforesaid, Knt. to whom the manor of East Orchard was given; and his issue male, enjoyed the same till the thirteenth year of Henrie the Fourth; that Sir Laurence Berkerolles, Knt. died, whom Sir Edward Stradling, Knt. as sole heir did succeed, being son to Sir William Stradling, Knt. son to Sir Edward Stradling, Knt. and Wenlhian sole sister and heir to the said Sir Laurence, of whom Edward Stradling, Knt. (that now is) is lineally descended.

Reginald

Reginald de Sully, Knt. his Pedigree.

SIR Reginald de Sully, to whom the castle and manor of Sully was given, and his issue male, enjoyed the same until about King Edward the First's time. And then it fell to a daughter married to Sir Morgan de Avan, Lord of the lordship of Avan above-named; whose son, Sir John de Avan, had but one daughter, of whom Sir George Blunt, of Shropshire, is lineally descended as sole heir, whose ancestor gave the said lordship of Avan, and the castle and manor of Sully to the Lord Spencer, in exchange for other lands in England.

Peter le Soore, Knt. his Pedigree.

SIR Peter le Soore, Knt. to whom was given the castle and manor of Peter's Towne, and his issue male, enjoyed the same until King Henry the Fourth's time, and then died without issue, and his inheritance fell between divers.

John le Fleming, Knt. his Pedigree.

SIR John le Fleming, Knt. to whom the castle and manor of S. George was given, and his issue male, enjoyed the same until King Henry the Fourth's time; and then it fell to Edmond Malefant, who had married a daughter to the last Fleming. And in King Henry the Seventh's time the Malefants' issue by Fleming's daughter failed; and then it fell to John Butler, of Dunreeven above named, Esq. and after the death of him and of Arnold his son, both the inheritances of Fleming and Butler fell to Walter Vaghan, of Brodemard, in the county of Hereford, Esq. now living, sister's son to the said Arnold Butler.

Oliuer de S. John, Knt. his Pedigree.

SIR Oliuer S. John, Knt. to whom the castle and manor of Fonmon was given, and his heirs male have ever since enjoyed the same, to whom the above-named Lord S. John, of Bledso, that now is, is sole heir; whose ancestors from the

the winning of the said lordship of Glamorgan out of the Welshmens hands, have continually dwelt at Fonmon aforesaid, until the latter time of King Edward the Fourth. That John S. John, Esq. had the said lordship of Bledso, and many other possessions besides, by the death of dame Margaret Beauchampe, his mother, who was also mother to Margaret, Duchess of Somerset, mother to King Henry the Seventh. Since which time the said John S. John, and Sir John S. John, Knt. father to my lord that now is, have always dwelt in Bledso, but they do keep their lands in Wales still in their hands.

William le Esterling, alias Stradling, his Pedigree.

1 SIR William Esterling, Knt. to whom the castle and manor of S. Donat's was given.
2 Sir John le Esterling, Knt. his son, succeeded him.
3 Sir Morris le Esterling, Knt. his son, succeeded him.
4 Sir Robert le Esterling, Knt. (most commonly called Stradling by shortness of speech and change of some letters) succeeded him.
5 Sir Gilbert Stradling, Knt. his son, succeeded him.
6 Sir William Stradling, Knt. his son, succeeded him.
7 Sir John Stradling, Knt. his son, succeeded him. It doth not appear in what stock or surname any of these seven knights above named did marry; but the names of the wives of William the first, Robert, and John the second, were Hawisia, Mathilda, and Cicilia.
8 Sir Peter Stradling, Knt. his son, succeeded him, who in the beginning of King Edward the First's time and reign married Iulian, sole daughter and heir of Thomas Hawey, by whom he had three manors, Hawey and Comhawey, in Somersetshire, yet remaining to his heirs, and Compton Hawey, in Dorsetshire, sold of late years.
9 Sir Edward Stradling, Knt. their son, succeeded them, and he quartered the Haweys' arms with his, and married with Elianor, daughter and heir to Gilbert Strangbow, a younger brother, whose wife was daughter and heir to Richard Garnon, and had by her two manors in Oxefordshire.
10 Sir Edward Stradling, Knt. his son, succeeded him, and married with Wenllian, daughter to Roger Berkrolles, Knt. and sole sister and heir to Sir Laurence Berkrolles, Knt. as it happened afterward.

11 Sir William Stradling, Knt. his son, married with Isabel, daughter and heir to John S. Barbe, of Somersetshire; but he had no lands by her, for it was entailed to the heirs male. This Sir William, in King Richard the Second's time, went a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, and received there also the orders of knighthood of the sepulchre of Christ.

12 Sir Edward Stradling, Knight, his son, succeeded him, who, because he was sole heir general to the said S. Barbe, did quarter S. Barbe's arms with his. To whom also (in the thirteenth year of King Henry the Fourth) fell the whole inheritance of the Berkerolles, and the right of the fourth part of Turberuile's inheritance, Lord of Coyty aforesaid; the which, for lack of issue male of the said Berkerolles, remained to Gamage and to his heirs male by the especial entail aforesaid. The which Sir Edward did quarter not only the said Berkerolles' arms with his, but also the Turberuiles and Iestynes arms; of whom the Turberuiles had in marriage one of the inheritors as is before said, because the said Sir Edward was one of the four heirs general to Sir Richard Turberuile, to wit, son to Sir William Stradling, son to Wenlhian, sister and heir to the said Laurence Berkerolles, and daughter to Catharine, eldest sister, and one of the four heirs general to the aforesaid Sir Richard Turberuile.

The said Sir Edward married with Jane, daughter to Henry Beauford, afterwards Cardinal, begotten (before he was priest) upon Alice, one of the daughters of Richard, Earl of Arundel; and in the beginning of King Henry the Seventh's reign, he went likewise on pilgrimage unto Ierusalem, as his father did, and received the order of the sepulchre there.

This Sir Edward had to his brother Sir John Stradling, Knight, who married with the heir of Dauncy, in Wiltshire, and had issue Sir Edmond, who had issue John and Edmond. John had issue Anne, Lady Davers, of whom the Davers, Hugerfordes, Fynes, and Leuet, and a great progeny of them are descended; and of the said Edmond cometh Carnysoyes, of Cornewal.

The said Edward had another brother called William, of whom Stradlyn, of Ruthyn, and others are descended; the same William had a daughter named Wenlhian, who, by the Earl of Ryuers, had a daughter, married to Sir Robert Poynes, of whom cometh all the Poynes, the Newtons, Perots, and others.

13 Sir Harrie Stradling, Knight, his son, succeeded him, and married with Elizabeth, sister of whole blood to Sir William Herbert, Knight, Earl of Penbrooke, and had issue by her one son and two daughters; one of them was married to Myles ap Harry, of whom Mrs. Blanch ap Harrie and her brethren and uncles are descended; the other daughter was married to Fleming, of Monton, in Wales.

This Sir Harrie, in the sixteenth year of King Edward the Fourth, went in like manner on pilgrimage to Ierusalem, and received the order of the sepulchre there, as his father and grandfather did, and died in the Isle of Cypres in his coming home; whose book is to be seen as yet, with a letter that his man brought from him to his lady and wife. The saying is, that divers of his said ancestors made the like pilgrimage, but there remaineth no memory in writing but of these three.

This Sir Harrie, sailing from his house in Somersetshire to his house in Wales, was taken prisoner by a Brytaine pirate, named Colyn Dolphyn, whose redemption and charges stood him in 2000 marks; for the payment whereof he was driven to sell the castle and manor of Basselek and Sutton, in Monmouthshire, and the manors in Oxfordshire.

14 Thomas Stradling, Esq. his son, succeeded him, and married Ienet, daughter to Thomas Matthew, of Rayder, Esq. and had issue by her two sons, Edward and Harrie, and one daughter named Jane, and died before he was twenty-six years of age. After whose death, his wife married with Sir Rice ap Thomas, Knight of the Garter. Harrie married with the daughter and heir of Thomas Iubb, learned in the law, and had issue by her Francis Stradling, of S. George, of Bristow, yet living. Iane was married to Sir William Gruffyth, of North Wales, Knt. and had issue by her three sons, Edward, Sir Rice Gruffyth, Knt. and John, and seven daughters. The eldest married to Stanley, of Houghton, the second to Sir Richard Buckley, Knt. the third to Lewys, the fourth to Moston, the fifth to Conwey, the sixth to Williams, the seventh to Pers Motton, and after to Simon Theloal, Esq. whose wife at this time she is; the eighth to Philips. Of which daughters there be a wonderful number descended. Edward married Jane, daughter to Sir John Puleston, Knt. and had issue by her three daughters; Jane married to William Herbert, of S. Julian; Catharine married to William Herbert, of Swansey,

Swansey, and another daughter married to Sir Nicholas Bagnoll, Knt.

15 Sir Edward Stradling, Knt. succeeded his father, and married with Elizabeth, one of the three daughters of Sir Thomas Arundell, of Lanheyron, in Cornewall, Knt. The other two were married to Speke and S. Lowe, and had issue four sons, Thomas, Robert, Edward, and John. Robert married Watkyn Lodher's daughter, and by her hath many children; Edward married with the daughter and heir of Robert Baglan, of Lantwit, and hath also divers children; and John is a priest. Also the said Sir Edward had two daughters; Jane married to Alexander Popham, of Somersetshire, of whom is a great number descended; and Catharine married to Sir Thomas Palmer, of Sussex, who hath a son named William.

16 Sir Thomas Stradling, Knt. his son, succeeded him, and married Catharine, the eldest daughter to Sir Thomas Gamage, of Coyty, Knt. and to dame Margaret his wife, daughter to Sir John S. John, of Bledso, Knt. by whom he hath living yet two sons, Edward and Dauid; and five daughters, Elizabeth, Damasyn, Iane, Ioice, and Wenlhian.

17 Sir Edward Stradling, Knt. that now is, married Agnes, second daughter to Sir Edward Gage, of Sussex, Knt. and as yet in the year 1572 hath no issue.

Memorandum, that of the heirs male of the aforesaid twelve knights that came with Sir Robert Fitzhamon to the winning of Glamorgan, the lordship aforesaid, there is at this day but the Stradling alive, that dwelleth in Wales, and enjoyeth the portion given in reward to his ancestors.

There be yet of the younger brothers of the Turberuiles and Flemings.

Greenefeeld and Syward do yet remain, but they dwell in England, and have done away their lands in Wales.

The Lord S. John, of Bledso (although he keepeth his ancient inheritance in Wales) yet he dwelleth in England.

Thus far the copy of the winning of Glamorgan, as I received the same at the hands of Mrs. Blanch Parrie, penned by Sir Edward Stradling, Knt.

D. POWEL.

We

We may here observe what a train of circumstances concurred together, in favour of the Normans having possession of this lordship: for had not Eineon, being vanquished by Prince Rhys, fled to Iestyn rather than to another, or had not Iestyn been so vain as to attempt the conquest of South Wales, and to that end consented to the advice of Eineon, there had been no necessity of inviting the Normans at all to Wales. And then, the Normans being arrived, had not Iestyn faithlessly violated his promise, and refused to perform the articles agreed upon between him and Eineon, or had not Eineon pursued so desperate a revenge, but satisfied his passion upon Iestyn, without prejudice to his country, the Normans would have returned home with satisfaction, and consequently could never have been proprietors of that noble country they then forcibly possessed. And again, the Welsh here experienced the dangerous consequence of calling in a foreign nation to their aid; the Saxons had already dispossessed them of the best part of the island of Britain, and now the Normans seized upon a great part of that small country which had escaped the sovereignty and conquest of the English.

About the same time that Robert Fitzhamon took the lordship of Glamorgan, Barnard Newmarch,* a nobleman likewise of Normandy, obtained by conquest the lordship of Brecknock; and Henry de Newburgh, son to Roger de Bellemont, by the Conqueror made Earl of Warwick, the country of Gower. But Barnard Newmarch gave the people of Wales some small satisfaction and content, by marrying Nêst, the daughter also of Nêst, daughter to Lhewelyn ap Gruffydh Prince of Wales, by whom he had issue a son called Mahael. This worthy gentleman being legally to succeed his father in the lordship of Brecknock, was afterwards disinherited by the malice and baseness of his own unnatural mother. The occasion was thus: Nêst becoming enamoured of a certain knight, with whom she had more than ordinary familiarity, even beyond what she expressed to her own husband; Mahael, who perceived her dissolute and loose behaviour, counselled her to take care of her fame and reputation, and to leave off that scandalous liberty which she took; and afterwards meeting casually her gallant coming from her, fought and grievously wounded him. Upon

* Several gentlemen came about this time to Brecknock with Barnard Newmarch, to whom he gave the following manors, which their heirs enjoy at this time: The manor of Abercynvric and Slowch to the Aubreys: the manors of Llanhamlach and Tal-y-Llyn to the Walbiefs: the manor of Gilston to the Gunters: and the manor of Pontwilym to the Havards, &c.—See Welsh Chron. p. 150.—Camden's Britannia, p. 590, Gibson's Edit.

Upon this Nêst, to be revenged upon her son, went to Henry the First, King of England, and in his presence took her corporeal oath, that her son was illegitimate, and not begot by Barnard Newmarch her husband, but by another person; by virtue of which oath, or rather perjury, Mahael was disinherited, and his sister, whom her mother attested to be legitimate, was bestowed by the King upon Milo, the son of Walter Constable, afterwards Earl of Hereford, who, in right of his wife, enjoyed the whole estate of Barnard Newmarch, Lord of Brecknock. Of this Milo, it is reported, that telling King Henry of a strange accident which had occurred to him by Lhyn Savathan, in Wales, where the birds upon the pond, at the passing by of Gruffydh, the son of Rhys ap Theoder, seemed by their chirping to be in a manner overjoyed; the king replied, it was not so wonderful, "for although (says he) manifestly we have violently and injuriously oppressed that nation, yet it is known that they are the lawful and original inheritors of that country."

Whilst the Normans were thus carving for themselves in Glamorgan and Brecknock, Cadogan ap Blethyn ap Confyn, towards the end of April, entered into Dyved, and, having ravaged and destroyed the country, returned back: but within eight weeks after there succeeded him a more fatal enemy; for the Normans landing in Dyved and Cardigan, began to fortify themselves in castles and other strong places, and to inhabit the country upon the sea-shore, which before was not in their possession. Indeed the Normans, having by the connivance of the Conqueror already got into their hands all the best estates in England, began now to spy out the commodities of Wales; and perceiving, moreover, how well Robert Fitzhamon and Barnard Newmarch had sped there, thought they might expect the like fortune. Wherefore, having obtained a grant from King William (who readily consented to their request, because by this means he killed two birds with one stone, procuring to himself their utmost service upon occasion, and withal providing for them without any charge to himself) they came to Wales, and so entered upon the estates appointed them by the king, which they held of him by knight-service, having first done homage and sworn fealty for the same. Roger Montgomery Earl of Arundel did homage for the lordships of Powys and Cardigan; Hugh Lupus Earl of Chester for Tegengl and Ryfonioc, together with all the land lying upon the sea-shore to the river Conwy; Arnulph, a younger son of Roger Montgomery, for Dyved; Barnard Newmarch for Brecknock; Ralph

Ralph Mortimer for Elvel; Hugh de Lacy for the land of Ewyas; Eustace Omer for Mold and Hapredale; and several others did the like homage for other lands. But Roger Montgomery, who by the Conqueror was created Earl of Arundel and Shrewsbury, entered in an hostile manner into Powysland, and having won the castle and town of Baldwyn, fortified it in his own right, and called it Montgomery after his own name.* King William of England was now in Normandy, and busily engaged in a war against his brother Robert; and taking advantage of his absence, Gruffydh ap Conan, Prince of North Wales, and Cadogan ap Blethyn, who now ruled in South Wales, with joint force entered into Cardigan, and slew a great number of Normans, whose arrogance and excessive cruelty towards the Welsh were become intolerable. After taking sufficient revenge there they returned home, and the Normans sent for aid from England; which being arrived, they thought to make a private inroad into North Wales, and so to be avenged upon the Welsh: but their design being discovered to Cadogan, he drew up his forces to meet them, and unexpectedly falling upon them in the forest of Yspys, after a very warm resistance on the part of the Normans, he forced them to retire by flight, and then triumphantly marching through Cardigan and Dyved, he destroyed all the castles and fortifications in the country, excepting those of Pembroke and Rydcors, which proved too strong, and, as regarded his force, were impregnable.

The next year, the Normans who inhabited the country of Glamorgan invaded and ravaged the countries of Gwyr, Kidwely, and Ystrad Tywy, which they harassed in such a cruel manner, that they left them bare of inhabitants; and to increase the miseries of the Welsh, King William Rufus, being informed of the great slaughter which Gruffydh ap Conan and the sons of Blethyn ap Confyn had lately committed upon the English, as well within Cheshire, Shropshire, Worcestershire, and Herefordshire, as within Wales, entered the country at Montgomery, which place the Welsh having some time since demolished King William had recently rebuilt: but the Welsh kept all the passages thro' the woods and rivers, and all other straits, so close, that the King could effect nothing considerable against them; and therefore when he perceived that his labour was but lost in continuing in those parts, he forthwith retreated, and returned without honour to England. This retreat of King William A. D. 1093. 1094.

* See Camden's Brit. p. 650. Gibson's Edition.—Welsh Chron. p. 152.

William was not altogether so favourable to the interest of the Welsh as the death of William Fitz-Baldwyn, who was owner of the castle of Rydcors, and who did more injury to the men of South Wales than any other person. He being dead, the garrison of Rydcors, which was wont to keep the Welsh in continual awe, forsook that place, and by that means gave opportunity to the inhabitants of Gwyr, Brecknock, Gwent, and Gwentlhwc, to shake off the intolerable yoke which the Normans had forced upon them, who, after they had robbed them of their lands, kept them in continual subjection. William Fitz-Baldwyn being now, however, dead, and the garrison of Rydcors scattered, they ventured to lay violent hands upon the Normans, who thought themselves free from all danger; and they prevailed so successfully, that they drove them all out of the country, and recovered their own ancient estates: but the Normans thus ousted liked that country so well, that they were resolved not to be so easily deprived of what they had with a great deal of pains and danger once possessed; and therefore having drawn a great number of English and Normans to their aid, they were anxious to venture another encounter with the Welsh, and to return, if possible, to their once acquired habitations. The Welsh, however, so abhorred their arrogant and tyrannical dominion over them when they were masters, that they were resolved not to be subject to such tyrants again; and therefore they boldly met them at a place called Celly Iarfawc, and fell upon them so manfully, (the very apprehension of servitude inciting their spirits,) that they put them to flight with great slaughter, and drove them out of the country. Yet the Normans were not absolutely routed in this overthrow: for, like a fly in the night, that destroys itself in the candle, they must needs seek their own destruction; and their greediness urging them on to venture that with few which was not practicable by many, they came as far as Brecknock, with a vow and determination not to leave one living thing remaining in that country: but they fell short of their intention, for the people of the country having placed themselves at a narrow strait, expecting their passing through, as soon as the Normans came up, fell upon them, and killed a great number of them. About the same time, Roger Montgomery Earl of Salop and Arundel, William Fitz-eustace Earl of Gloucester, Arnold de Harecourt, and Neal le Vicount, were slain by the Welsh between Caerdiff and Brecknock, and Walter Eureux Earl of Sarum, Rosmer, Mantilake, and Hugh Earl of Gourney, were wounded, who

who afterwards died in Normandy.* The Normans, finding that they continually lost ground, thought it not advisable to stay any longer; and therefore having placed sufficient garrisons in those castles which they had formerly built, they returned with what speed they could to England. Yet all the haste they made could not secure them from the fury of the Welsh; for Gruffydh and Ifor, the sons of Ednerth ap Cadogan, waylaid them at a place called Aberlhech, where, falling unexpectedly upon them, they slew the greatest part of their number, the remainder narrowly escaping in safety to England: but the Norman garrisons which were left behind defended themselves with a great deal of bravery, till at last, finding no prospect of relief, they were forced for their own safety to deliver up the fortresses to the Welsh, who from that time became again proprietors of those places of which the Normans had dispossessed them. This encouraged the Welsh to undertake other things against the English; for immediately after this, certain of the nobility of North Wales, Uchthred the son of Edwyn ap Grono by name, together with Howel ap Grono, and the sons of Cadogan ap Blethyn of Powysland, passed by Cardigan into Dyved (which country King William had given to Arnulph son to Roger Montgomery, who had built thereon the castle of Pembroke, and appointed Gerald de Windsor governor of the same,)† and destroying all the country with fire and sword, excepting Pembroke castle, which was impregnable, they returned home with a great deal of booty. In return for this, when the lords of North Wales had retired, Gerald issued out of the castle, and spoiled all the country about St. David's; and after he had obtained much plunder, and taken divers prisoners, returned to the castle.

The year following, King William returned from Nor- A. D. 1095.
mandy, and having heard how the Welsh had cut off a great number of his subjects in Wales, gathered all his power together, and with great pomp and ostentation entered the marches, resolving utterly to eradicate the rebellious and implacable disposition of the Welsh nation: but after all this boast and seeming resolution, he ventured no farther than the marches, and having built there some few castles, he returned with no greater honour than he came.
In the next spring, Hugh de Montgomery Earl of Arundel 1096.
and Salop, by the Welsh named Hugh Gôch,‡ and Hugh Frâs,

* Welsh Chron. p. 154. † Ibid.
‡ Hugh with a red head.

Frâs, or the Fat, Earl of Chester, being invited by some disaffected Welsh lords, came into North Wales with a very great army. Prince Gruffydh ap Conan, and Cadogan ap Blethyn, perceiving themselves to be too weak to oppose so numerous an army, and, what was worse, suspecting the fidelity of their own forces, thought it best to take to the hills and mountains for safety, as the places where they might remain most secure from the enemy. Then the English army marched towards Anglesey, and being come opposite the island, they built the castle of Aberlhiennawc: but Gruffydh and Cadogan could no longer endure to see their country over-run by the English, and therefore they descended from the mountains and came to Anglesey, thinking, with what succours they should receive from Ireland, (of which they were disappointed,) to be able to defend the island from any attempt that should be made upon it: and then the whole reason and occasion of the English coming to Wales was discovered; for Owen ap Edwyn, the Prince's chief counsellor, whose daughter Gruffydh had married (having himself also married Everyth the daughter of Confyn, aunt to Cadogan), upon some private pique or other, had requested the English to come into Wales, and he at this time openly joined his forces with theirs, and led the whole army over into Anglesey. Gruffydh and Cadogan finding they were thus betrayed by him that they had believed to be their dearest friend, for fear of farther treachery, judged it prudent to sail privately for Ireland; after whose departure the English fell cruelly to work, destroying all they could come at, without any respect either to age or sex.

Whilst the English continued in Anglesey, Magnus the son of Harold, lately King of England, came over with a great fleet, intending to take more secure hold upon that kingdom than his father had done, and to recover the same to himself: but whilst he steered his course thitherward, he was driven by contrary winds to the coast of Anglesey, where he would fain have landed had not the English army kept him off. In this skirmish Magnus accidentally wounded Hugh Earl of Salop with an arrow in the face, whereof he died;* and then both armies suddenly relinquished the
A. D. 1097. island, the English returning to England, appointing Owen ap

* The Norwegian Prince, on seeing him fall, exultingly cried "Let him dance."—Giraldus Cambrensis, Itin. 6, 7. Simon Dunelme, p. 223.

This accidental stroke of justice, seen by the eye of superstition, made the Welsh to conclude that the arrow had been directed by the immediate hand of the Almighty.—Warrington.

ap Edwyn, who invited them over, prince of the country. Owen did not enjoy the principality long; for in the beginning of the following spring, Gruffydh ap Conan and Cadogan ap Blethyn returned from Ireland, and having concluded a peace with the Normans for some part of their lands in Wales, Gruffydh remained in Anglesey, and Cadogan had Cardigan, with part of Powys: but though Cadogan recovered his estate, yet in a little while after he lost his son Lhewelyn, who was treacherously murdered by the men of Brecknock: at which time also died Rythmarch, Archbishop of St. David, the son of Sulien, being in the forty-third year of his age; a man of greater piety, wisdom, and learning than had flourished for a long period in Wales, excepting his father, under whose tutelage he was educated. The year following, King William Rufus, as he 1098.
was hunting in the New Forest, was accidentally slain with an arrow, which one Walter Tyrrel shot at a stag; and his eldest brother being then engaged in the Holy War, Henry, his younger brother, whom in his life-time he had nominated his successor, was crowned in his stead. The same year, Hugh Earl of Chester, Grono ap Cadogan, and Gwyn ap Gruffydh, departed this life.

About two years after, a rebellion broke out in England; 1100.
Robert de Belesmo, the son of Roger de Montgomery Earl of Salop, and Arnulph his brother, Earl of Pembroke, took up arms against King Henry; which he being informed of, sent them a very gracious message to come before him and declare their grievances, and the reason of their rising up in arms against his Majesty: but the Earls, instead of appearing in person, sent him slight and frivolous excuses, and in the mean while made all necessary preparations for the war, both by raising of forces and fortifying their castles and strongholds. And to strengthen themselves the more, they sent rich presents, and made large promises to Iorwerth, Cadogan, and Meredith, the sons of Blethyn ap Confyn, to bring them to their side. Robert fortified four castles, namely, Arundel, Tekinhil, Shrewsbury, and Brugge; which last, by reason that Robert built it without the consent of the king, was the chief occasion of this war; and Arnulph fortified his castle at Pembroke. After this, they entered in an hostile manner into the territories of the King of England, wasting and destroying all before them; and to augment their strength, Arnulph sent Gerald his steward to Murkart King of Ireland, desiring his daughter in wedlock; which was readily granted, with the promise too of great succours and large supplies. King Henry, to put

put a stop to their bold adventures, marched in person against them, and, laying siege to the castle of Arundel, won it without any great opposition; and quickly afterwards the castle of Tekinhill; but that of Brugge, by reason of the situation of the place, and the depth of the ditch about it, seemed to require longer time and harder service; and therefore King Henry was advised to send privately to Iorwerth ap Blethyn, promising him great rewards if he forsook the Earls' part and came over to him, urging to him what mischief Roger, Earl Robert's father, and his brother Hugh, had continually done to the Welshmen: and to make him the more willing to accept his proposals, he promised to give him all such lands as the Earl and his brother had in Wales, without either tribute or homage; which was a part of Powys, Cardigan, and half Dyved, the other part being in the possession of William Fitz-Baldwyn. Iorwerth receiving these offers, accepted them very gladly, and then coming to the king, he sent all his forces to Earl Robert's lands, who, having received very strict orders, destroyed without mercy every thing they met with; and what made the spoil the greater, Earl Robert, upon his rebelling against King Henry, had caused his people to convey all their goods to Wales for fear of the English, not thinking how his father's memory sounded among the Welsh. When the news of Iorwerth's revolt reached the ears of the Earl, and of Cadogan and Meredith, Iorwerth's brothers, their spirits began to faint, as despairing any longer to oppose the king, since Iorwerth, who was the person of greatest power in Wales, had left and forsaken them. Arnulph was gone to Ireland to fetch home his wife, and to bring over what succour his father-in-law, King Murkart, could afford to send him; but he not coming in time, some other method was to be tried, in order to obtain aid against the English. A little before this rebellion broke out, Magnus, Harold's son, landed the second time in the Isle of Anglesey, and being kindly received by Gruffydh ap Conan, he had leave to cut down what timber he had need for; and so returning to the Isle of Man, which he had got by conquest, he built there three castles, and then sent to Ireland to have the daughter of Murkart in marriage to his son, which being obtained, he created him King of Man. Earl Robert hearing this, sent to Magnus for aid against King Henry; but receiving none, he thought it high time to look to his own safety; and therefore he sent to the king, requesting that he might quietly depart the kingdom, in case he should lay down his arms, which the king

king having granted, he sailed to Normandy: and then King Henry sent an express to his brother Arnulph, requiring him either to follow his brother out of the kingdom or to deliver himself up to his mercy; and so Arnulph went over also to Normandy. When the king was returned to London, Iorwerth took his brother Meredith prisoner, and committed him to the king's custody; his other brother Cadogan having reconciled himself beforehand, to whom Iorwerth gave Cardigan, with a part of Powys. Then Iorwerth went to London, to put the king in mind of his promise, and the service he had done him against Earl Robert; but the king finding that now all matters were quiet, was deaf to all such remembrances, and instead of promising what he had once voluntarily proposed, he, contrary to all rules of equity and gratitude, took away Dyfed from Iorwerth, and gave it to a knight of his own called Saer; and Stratywy, Cydwely, and Gwyr, he bestowed upon Howel ap Grono, and sent Iorwerth away more empty than he came: nor was this sufficient reward for his former services,—for the next year King Henry sent some of his council A. D. 1101. to Shrewsbury, and cited Iorwerth to appear there, under pretence of consulting about the king's business and affairs of those parts; but the plot was laid deeper, and when, without any suspicion of treachery, he made his appearance, he was, to his great surprise, attainted of high treason, and, contrary to all right and justice, actually condemned to perpetual imprisonment;* the true reason of this unparalleled severity being, that the king feared his strength, and was apprehensive that he would revenge the wrong and affront he had received at his hands: and indeed well had he reason to fear that, when he so ungratefully treated him by whose service he had experienced such great advantages. But the policy of princes is unaccountable; and whether to value an eminent person for his service, or to fear him for his greatness, is a subject that frequently disturbs their most settled considerations. The noblemen that were at this time sent by the king to Shrewsbury, were Richard de Belmersh,† who being a chief agent of Roger Montgomery Earl of Salop, was preferred to the bishoprick of London, and afterwards appointed by that king to be warden of the marches, and governor of the county of Salop. With him were joined in company, Walter Constable, the father of Milo, Earl of Hereford, and Rayner, the king's lieutenant in the county of Salop. About this time, as Bale writes, the church of Menevia or St. David began to be subject to the

* Welsh Chron. 159, 160. † Richard de Belmarsh.

the see of Canterbury, being always previously the metropolitan church of all Wales.

A. D. 1102. Shortly after this, Owen ap Edwyn, who had been author of no small mischief and disturbance to the Welsh in moving the English against his natural prince and son-in-law Gruffydh ap Conan, departed this life, after a tedious and miserable sickness; of which he was so much the less pitied by how much he had proved an enemy and a traitor to his native country. Edwyn was the son of Grono by his wife Edelflede, the widow of Edmund, surnamed Ironside, King of England; and had the title of Tegengl; though the English, when they had compelled Gruffydh ap Conan to flee to Ireland for safety, constituted him Prince of all North Wales. After his death, Richard Fitz-Baldwyn laid siege to and took the castle of Rydcors, and forcibly drove Howel ap Grono, to whom King Henry had committed the custody of it, out of the country. But Howel quickly returned, and, with a high spirit of revenge, began to destroy and burn whatsoever he could meet with, and then meeting a party of the Normans in their return homeward, he fell upon the flank of them with a very considerable slaughter; and so brought all the country to his subjection, excepting some few garrisons and castles which would not surrender to him. At the same time King Henry took away from Saer the government of Dyfed, which formerly was Iorwerth ap Blethyn's, and bestowed it upon Gerald, who had been some time Earl Arnulph's steward in those parts; and therefore, by reason of his knowledge of the country, was in all probability best able to take upon himself the management of it: but the Normans in Rydcors castle being sensible that they were not able to effect any thing against Howel ap Grono in open field, after their accustomed manner, began to put that in execution by treachery which they could not compass by force of arms; and that they might make Howel a sacrifice for those Normans he had lately slain, they could find no safer way than by corrupting one Gwgan ap Meyric, a man in great favour and esteem with Howel, upon the account chiefly that one of his children was nursed by Gwgan's wife. This ungrateful villain, to carry on his wicked intrigue the more unsuspected, gave Howel a very earnest invitation to his house to a merriment, where, without any suspicion of treachery, being come, he was welcomed with all the seeming affection and kindness imaginable: but no sooner was he arrived, than Gwgan gave notice thereof to the Norman garrisons; and by break of day they entered the town, and coming about the house where

where Howel lay in bed, they presently gave a great shout. Howel hearing the noise, suspected something of mischief, and therefore leaping in all haste out of bed, he made to his weapons, but could not find them, by reason that Gwgan had conveyed them away whilst he was asleep; and now being assured of treachery in the case, and finding that his men had fled for their lives, he endeavoured all he could to make his escape, but Gwgan and his company were too quick for him, and so being secured they strangled him, and delivered his body to the Normans, who having cut off his head conveyed it to the castle of Rydcors. This most villainous murder, so barbarously committed upon the king's lieutenant, was not in the least taken notice of; for King Henry was so unreasonably prejudiced in favour of the Normans, that whatever misdemeanor, be it of never so high a nature, was by them committed, it was presently winked at and let pass without notice; whereas, if the Welsh trespassed but against the least injunction of the king's laws, they were most severely punished, which was the cause that they afterwards stood up against the king in their own defence, being by experience assured that he intended, if possible, their utter destruction.

About this time Anselm, archbishop of Canterbury, convened a synod at London, wherein, among other injunctions then decreed, the celibacy of the clergy was enjoined; marriage being at all times previously allowed in Britain to those in holy orders. This new injunction created a great deal of heat and animosity among the clergy, some approving of it as reasonable and orthodox, others condemning it as an innovation and contrary to the plain letter of scripture. During these disputes between the clergy, King Henry, being now in the fifth year of his reign, sailed over with a great army into Normandy, where his brother Robert, together with Robert de Belesmo, Arnulph, and William Earl of Mortaign, gave him battle; but the king having obtained the victory, took the duke his brother, with William of Mortaign, prisoners, and carrying them into England, he caused first his brother Robert's eyes to be plucked out, and then condemned them both to perpetual imprisonment in the castle of Cardyff. About the same A. D. 1104. time, Meyric and Gruffydh, the sons of Trahaern ap Caradoc, were both slain by the means of Owen ap Cadogan ap Blethyn, whose uncle Meredith ap Blethyn, who had been prisoner for a long time in England, now broke open the prison, wherein he was very narrowly confined, and returning to his own country, had his estate restored, which afterwards he quietly enjoyed.

The

A. D. 1105. The next year a very dismal and calamitous accident happening in the Low Countries, proved very incommodious and prejudicial to the Welsh; for a great part of Flanders being drowned by the overflowing of the sea, the inhabitants were compelled to seek for some other country to dwell in, their own being now covered with water; and therefore a great many being come over to England, they requested King Henry to assign them some part of his kingdom which was waste and void of inhabitants, where they might settle and plant themselves. The king taking advantage of this charitable opportunity, and being in a manner assured that these Flemings would be a considerable thorn in the side of the Welsh, bestowed upon them very liberally what was not justly in his power to give, and appointed them the country of Rhos, in Dyfed or West Wales, where they continue to this day: but Gerald, the king's lieutenant in those parts, was resolved to be afore-
hand with them, and rebuilt the castle of Pembroke, in a place called Congarth Fechan; whither he removed his
1106. family and all his goods. Here a very unfortunate accident happened to him; for Cadwgan ap Blethyn having prepared a sumptuous feast in the Christmas, invited all the lords to his country house in Dyfed, and among the rest his son Owen, who lived in Powys. This youug gentleman being at his father's house, and hearing Nêst the wife of Gerald universally praised for her incomparable beauty, was so smitten with the rumour that went abroad of her, that by all means he must see the lady who was by all so much admired:* and forasmuch as Gwladys, wife to Rhys ap Theodore, and mother to Nêst, was the daughter of Rywalhon ap Confyn, cousin-german to Cadwgan his father, under pretence of friendship and relation he made bold to pay her a visit. Finding the truth far to surpass the fame that went of her, he returned home so inflamed with her charms, that, not being able to keep the mastery over himself, he went back again the same night, and being attended by a company of wild, head-strong youths, they privily entered the castle, and encompassing the chamber where Gerald and his wife lay, they set the house on fire. Gerald hearing a noise, would fain go out to know the meaning of such unseasonable disturbance; but his wife, fearing

* Nêst was the sister of Gruffydh ap Rhŷs, had been the mistress of Henry the First, and brought him his son, Robert of Gloucester, who was very eminent as a soldier, a statesman, and scholar. He was the instrument of restoring his nephew, Henry, to the throne of England, although that event took place after Gloucester's death. Geoffrey of Monmouth dedicates to him his latin translation of Tysilio. Robert was a friend of learning and learned men in that early age of English literature: William of Malmesbury, the poet and historian, was patronised by him.

fearing some treachery, persuaded him to make as private an escape as he could, and then, pulling up a board in the privy, let him go that way; then returning to her chamber, she assured those audacious youths that there was no body besides herself and children there; but this not being satisfactory, they forcibly broke in, and having searched every the most private corner and not finding Gerald, they took his wife and two sons, with a son and a daughter born by a concubine, and carried them away to Powys, having first set fire to the castle, and destroyed the country as they went along. Cadwgan, Owen's father, hearing of the outrageous crime his son had committed, was exceedingly concerned and sorry, and chiefly because hereby he was likely to incur King Henry's great displeasure; and therefore he went with all speed to Powys, and intreated his son to send home to Gerald his wife and children, with whatever else he had taken away from him: but Owen was so amorously inexorable with respect to the woman, that he would by no means part with her; however, upon her request, he was willing to restore Gerald his children again, which forthwith he performed.* When Richard, Bishop of London, whom King Henry had constituted Warden of the Marches, and who was now at Shrewsbury, heard of this, he sent for Ithel and Madoc, the sons of Ryryd ap Blethyn, persons of great power and interest in Wales, promising them very considerable rewards, besides the government of the whole country, in case they could bring Owen and his father Cadwgan, either dead or alive, to him, that he might revenge that heinous affront which they had done to the King of England. With them he joined Llywarch the son of Trahaern ap Caradoc, whose two brethren Owen had slain, and Uchtryd, the son of Edwyn; which four undertook to answer effectually the bishop's proposal to them: but when they had united their forces, and began in an hostile manner to destroy the country as they passed along, Uchtryd sent private notice before him, requiring all who were any way desirous of their own safety to come to him, because no quarter was to be given to any that were found in the country. The people being thus so opportunely forewarned, began to bethink with themselves how they might best avoid so imminent a danger, and thereupon some fled to Arustly, others to Melienyth, some to Stradtywy, and some to Dyfed; but in this latter place they met with cold welcome, for Gerald, who was then very busy in exercising revenge upon that country, falling in among them, cut off a considerable number of them. The like fate befel

* Welsh Chron. p. 164.

befel those who escaped to Arustly and Melienyth; for Walter Bishop of Hereford having raised an army in defence of the town of Caermyrdhyn, before he could come thither, accidentally met with these straggling fugitives, and knowing to what country they belonged, without any further ceremony, he fell upon them and put most of them to the sword. They who fled to Stradtywy were kindly received by Meredith ap Rytherch; and such as resorted to Uchtryd were as kindly entertained by him; and so he marched with the rest of his confederates to Rydcors castle, it being the general opinion that it was best to enter the country by night, and to take Cadwgan and Owen his son by surprise: but Uchtryd reflecting upon the difficulty of the country, and how easily they might be entrapped by an ambuscade, dissuaded them from any such nocturnal undertakings, and told them that it was far more advisable to enter the country in good order, when the light gave the soldiers opportunity to keep and observe their ranks. Whilst they were thus considering of the most effectual way to carry on their purpose, Owen got a ship at Aberdyfi, bound for Ireland, and escaping thither, avoided the narrow search that was the following day made for them. When, therefore, father nor son could be found, all the fault was laid upon Uchtryd, who had dissuaded them from falling upon the castle unexpectedly; and, therefore, all that his companions could do, since their escape, was to burn and destroy the country, which they did effectually, excepting the two sanctuaries of Lhanpadarn and Lhandewi Brefi; out of which, however, they took several persons who had escaped thither, and carried them away prisoners to their several countries: but Owen, with those who were accessary to the burning of Rydcors castle, being fled to Ireland, desired the favour and protection of King Murcart, who received him very gladly, upon the account of their former acquaintance; for Owen, during the war betwixt the Earls of Arundel and Chester and the Welsh, had fled to King Murcart, and brought him very rich presents from Wales. Cadwgan all this while lay privately in Powys; but thinking it impossible to continue there long undiscovered, he adjudged it his wiser way to send to King Henry, and to declare his innocency and abhorrence of the crime which his son had committed. The King was easily persuaded that the old man was guiltless and wholly innocent of his son's offence; and therefore he gave him permission to remain in the country, and to enjoy the town and lands he received by his wife, who was the daughter of a Norman

Norman lord, called Pygot de Say: but his lands in Powys were otherwise distributed; for his nephews, Madoc and Ithel, finding what circumstances their uncle Cadwgan lay under upon the account of his son Owen, divided betwixt themselves such lands as he and his son possessed in Powys, though afterwards they could never agree about the equal distribution of them. To counterbalance this, Cadwgan made such successful application to the King of England, that, upon paying the fine of £100, he had a grant of all his lands in Cardigan, and a power to recall all the inhabitants who had fled away upon the publication of the king's late order, that no Welshman or Norman should dwell in Cardigan. Upon information of this grant to Cadwgan, several of them that retired to Ireland returned again privately to Wales, and lurkingly remained with their friends; but Owen durst not appear in Cardigan, by reason that his father had received that country from King Henry, upon condition that he would never entertain nor receive his son, nor by any means succour him either with men or money. Nevertheless, Owen came to Powys, and would fain be reconciled to the king, and make an atonement for his late misdemeanor, but he could find nobody that would venture to speak in his behalf, nor make the king acquainted with his desire and willingness to submit: and thus being hopeless and full of despair, he could not possibly divine which way to turn himself, till at last a very unexpected opportunity offered him means and occasion to oppose the English. The matter was this, there happened a difference betwixt Madoc ap Ryryd* and the Bishop of London, Lieutenant of the Marches of Wales, about certain English felons whom (being under the protection of Madoc) he would not restore at the bishop's request. The bishop being much offended at Madoc's denial, threatened him very severely; and therefore to make all possible preparations against an ensuing storm, Madoc sent to Owen, who heretofore was his greatest enemy, desiring his help against the bishop; and by this means being reconciled, they took their mutual oaths not to betray each other, and that neither should make a separate agreement with the English without the knowledge and approbation of the other; and so uniting their power, they spoiled and ravaged all the country about them, destroying whatever they could meet with which belonged to those they had no kindness or affection for, without the least distinction of English or Welsh.

Iorwerth ap Blethyn had been very unjustly detained in prison A. D. 1107.

* Ap Bleddyn ap Cynvyn.

prison all this time; and now King Henry calling to mind what hardship he laboured under, and that he committed him to custody without any reasonable pretence, sent to know of him what he was willing to pay for his liberty. Iorwerth being now almost ready to sink under the fatigue of such a long imprisonment, was glad to give any thing he was able to obtain that which he had so long in vain hoped for; and therefore he promised either £300 in specie, or to the value of it in cattle and horses, for the payment of which Iorwerth and Ithel, the sons of his brother Ryryd, were delivered for pledges.* Then the king released him out of prison, and restored him all his lands which were taken from him; and of the due for his liberty, the king bestowed £10 upon Henry, Cadwgan's son by the daughter of Pygot de Say, the Norman. Owen and Madawc all this while committed all the waste and destruction possible, and cruelly annoyed both the English and Normans, and always withdrew and retired to Iorwerth's estate, which so troubled him, by reason of the king's strict orders not to permit Owen to come to his or Cadwgan's territories, that at length he sent to them this positive and peremptory rebuke:— "Since it hath pleased God to place us in the midst of our enemies, and to deliver us into their hands; and hath so far weakened us, as that we are not able to do any thing of our own strength; and your father Cadwgan and myself are particularly commanded, under penalty of forfeiting our lands and estates, not to afford you any succour or refuge during these your rebellious practices; therefore, as a friend I entreat you, command you as a lord, and desire you as a kinsman, that you come no more to mine or your father Cadwgan's territories."

Owen and Madawc receiving such a peremptory message, were the more enraged, and by way of malignant retribution, did more frequently than heretofore shelter themselves in Iorwerth's country; insomuch, that at last, since that they would neither by threats nor intreaties desist from their wonted courses, he was forced to gather his power and drive them out by force of arms. Being chased out hence, they made inroads into Uchtryd's country in Merionethshire; but Uchtryd's sons being then in Cyveilioc, and hearing of it, they sent to the people of the country, with positive orders to oppose and resist any offer they might make to enter the country. The people, though wanting a skilful commander, were resolved to do as much as lay in their power; and so meeting with them by the way, they set

* Welsh Chron. pp. 165, 166, 167, 168.

set upon them so furiously, that Owen and Madawc, after a brave defence, were forced to retreat and take to their heels; Owen fled to Cardigan to his father Cadwgan, and Madawc to Powys. Yet all these misfortunes could not suppress the restless spirit of Owen; for as soon as he could rally together his scattered troops, he made divers inroads into Dyfed, and carrying away several persons to the ships that he had brought with him from Ireland, he first took a ransom of them, and then listing them under his own command, made such addition to his army, that he ventured to set upon a town in Dyfed, belonging to the Flemings, and having rased it to the ground, he returned to Cardigan, having no regard as to what inconvenience might befal his father from the king of England upon this account, which a little afterwards fell out: for it happened that some of Owen's men having had intelligence, that a certain bishop called William de Brabant was upon his journey through that country to the court of England, they laid wait for his coming, who, without any apprehension of treachery, passing through the country, was unexpectedly slain, he and all his retinue.* Iorwerth and Cadwgan were then at court to speak with King Henry concerning certain business of their own:† but whilst they discoursed with the king, in came a Fleming, who was a brother to the deceased bishop, and with a very loud exclamation, complained how that Owen, Cadwgan's son, had slain his brother and the rest of his company; and that he was succoured and entertained in Cadwgan's country. King Henry hearing this, was wrathfully displeased at such outrageous barbarity, and that a person of such quality and profession should be so treacherously murdered; and therefore he asked Cadwgan what he could say to the matter, who answered, that what had so unhappily fell out was done without the least knowledge or approbation on his part, and therefore desired his Majesty to impute all the blame and guilt of that unfortunate transaction to his son Owen. King Henry was so far from being satisfied with this reply, that he told Cadwgan in a violent passion, that since he could not prevent his son being aided and entertained in his country, he would bestow it upon another person, who was better able and more willing to keep him out; and would allow him a maintenance upon his own proper charges, upon these conditions, that he should not enter Wales any more without his further orders; and so granting him twenty days for the ordering his affairs, he gave him liberty to retire to any part of his dominions except

* Welsh Chron. pp. 166, 167, 168. † Ibid.

except Wales. When Owen and Madawc were informed how Cadwgan was treated by the king of England, and that Cardigan, which was their chief place of refuge, was to be given to another person, they thought that their condition by this time was desperate, and that they had better not stay any longer in Britain; and therefore with all speed they took shipping for Ireland, where they were sure to be honourably entertained by King Murkart. Then King Henry sent for Gilbert Strongbow Earl of Strygill, a person of noted worth and valour, and one who had often sued to the king to grant him some lands in Wales, and bestowed upon him all the lands and inheritance of Cadwgan ap Blethyn, in case he could conquer and bring the country under. Gilbert very thankfully accepted the proposal, and having drawn together all the forces he was able to raise, he passed to Wales, and being come to Cardigan without the least trouble or opposition, he reduced the whole country to his subjection. The first thing he did was the best he could to secure himself in this new purchased inheritance; in order to which he erected two castles, one upon the frontiers of North Wales, upon the mouth of the river Ystwyth, a mile distant from Llanbadarn; the other towards Dyfed, upon the river Teifi, at a place called Dyngeraint, where, as some think, Roger Montgomery had some time before laid the foundation of Cilgarran castle.*

Owen and Madawc were all this while in Ireland; but the latter being at length tired of the country, and not willing to endure the manners and customs of the Irish, came over to Wales, and passed to the country of his uncle Iorwerth. Iorwerth being acquainted with his arrival, was fearful lest he should suffer the same fate as his brother Cadwgan, if he permitted his being there; and, therefore, without any regard to relation or consanguinity, he presently issued a proclamation, forbidding any of his subjects, under a great penalty, to receive him, but that they should account him an open enemy to their country, and endeavour all they could to secure Madawc and to bring him prisoner before him. When Madawc understood this, and that his person was in continual danger whilst he remained there, having drawn to him all the outlaws and villains in the country, he kept in the rocks and mountains, devising all the ways and means he could to be revenged upon Iorwerth; and so made a private league and agreement with Lhywarch ap Trahaern, who for a long time had been a mortal enemy of Iorwerth. These two associates, having intelligence that

* Welsh Chron. p. 169.

that Iorwerth lay one night at Caereineon,* gathered all their strength, and came and encompassed the house at midnight, which when Iorwerth's servants perceived, they arose and defended the house with all the might they could; but the assailants at last putting the house on fire, they were glad, as many as could, to escape through the flames, the greatest part being forced to yield, either to the enemy's sword or the more conquering fire. Iorwerth seeing no remedy, but that he must undergo the same fate as his men had done, chose rather to die in the presence of his enemies with his sword in his hand, than cowardly to commit his life to the flames; and therefore rushing out with great violence, he was received upon the points of the enemies' spears, and being by them tossed into the flames, he miserably perished by a double death. As soon as King Henry heard of his death, he sent for Cadwgan to him, and gave him all his brother's estate, being Powys-land; and promising his son Owen his pardon, upon condition that he would demean himself quiety and loyally hereafter, willed him to send for him back from Ireland.† King Henry also about this time married his natural son Robert to Mabil, daughter and sole heir to Robert Fitz-hamon, Lord of Glamorgan, in whose right this Robert became Lord of Glamorgan, being before by the king created Earl of Gloucester, by whom the castle of Cardiff was built.

But Madawc finding the matter nothing mended, and that his other uncle Cadwgan, who lay under the same obligation to the King of England, ruled the country, hid himself in the most private and inaccessible places, watching only an opportunity to commit the like crime upon Cadwgan, and to murder him by one treacherous way or another. And this he effected in a little time; for Cadwgan having reduced the country to some sort of settlement and quietness, and restored the courts of judicature, where he sat in person to administer justice, came with the rest of the elders of the country to Trallwng, now Pool,‡ and having begun to A. D. 1109. build a castle, he thought to make that the constant seat of his habitation. Madawc understanding his design, laid in ambush for him in his way to Trallwng, and as Cadwgan unconcernedly passed by without the least suspicion of treachery, he suddenly set upon him, and slew him, without allowing

* Castle Caereinion. † Welsh Chron. 170, 171.

‡ Welsh Pool, in Montgomeryshire.

allowing him any time either to fight or escape.* Then he sent presently a message to Shrewsbury, to the Bishop of London, the king's lieutenant in the marches, to put him in mind of his former promises to him, when he chased Owen out of the country; because that the bishop, bearing an inveterate enmity towards Cadwgan and his son Owen, granted Madawc such lands as his brother Ithel was possessed of. But Meredith ap Blethyn, being informed of the death of both his brothers, went in all haste to the king, desiring of him the lands of Iorwerth in Powys, which he had lately bestowed upon Cadwgan; which the king granted him, until such time as Owen should return from Ireland. Owen was not long before he came over, and then going to King Henry, he was honourably received, and had all his father's estate restored to him; whereupon, in gratitude for this signal favour, he voluntarily promised to pay the king a considerable fine,† for the due payment of which he gave very responsible pledges. Madawc, finding himself left alone in the lurch, and that he had no seeming power to bear head against the king, thought it also his wisest way to make what reconciliation he could; and therefore he offered the king a very great fine if he should peaceably enjoy his former estate, promising withal never to molest or disturb any one that was subject to the crown of England. King Henry, willing to bring all matters to a settled condition, readily granted his request, and conferred upon him all he could reasonably ask for; only with this proviso, that, upon his peril, he should provide for the relations of those whom he had so basely murdered.

A. D. 1109. And thus all matters being brought to a peaceable conclusion in Wales, the next year Robert de Belesmo, who had been one of the chief instruments in these Welsh disturbances, in that great rebellion which himself, with Roger de Montgomery Earl of Salop, and his brother, Arnulph Earl of Pembroke, had raised against the king, was taken prisoner by King Henry in Normandy, and committed to perpetual imprisonment in Warham Castle.

1110. The year following, Meredith ap Blethyn detached a considerable party of his men to make incursions into the country of Lhywarch ap Trahaern ap Gwyn, who was an inveterate enemy of himself and Owen; because by his aid and instigation Madawc was encouraged to kill his uncles Iorwerth and

* Thus died, after a variety of misfortunes, Cadwgan, the son of Bleddyn ap Cynvyn, dignified by Camden with the title of the renowned Briton; a prince whose valour, sense of justice, and other milder virtues, might, in any age but this, have exempted him from a death so cruel and so unworthy of his character.

† Welsh Chron. p. 170, 171.

and Cadwgan. These men, as they passed through Madawc's country, met a person in the night-time who belonged to Madawc, who being asked where his master was, after some pretence of ignorance, at last through fear confessed that he was not far from that place; therefore, lying quietly there all night, by break of day they arose to look out their game; and unexpectedly surprising Madawc, they slew a great number of his men, and took himself prisoner; and so carrying him to their Lord, they delivered him up, as the greatest honour of their expedition. Meredith was not a little proud of his prisoner, and therefore, to ingratiate himself the more with his nephew Owen, he committed him to safe custody, till he was sent for; who coming thither immediately, Meredith delivered Madawc up to him. Owen, though he had the greatest reason for the most cruel revenge, because both his father and uncle were basely murdered by this Madawc, would not put him to death, remembering the intimate friendship and oaths which had passed betwixt them; but to prevent him from doing any future mischief, he pulled out his eyes, and then set him at liberty.* Lest, however, he should be capable of any revenge by reason of his estate and strength in the country, Meredith and Owen thought fit to divide his lands betwixt them; which were Carnarvon, Aber-rhiw, with the third part of Deuthwfyr.

These home-bred disturbances being pretty well abated, A.D. 1111.
a greater storm arose from abroad; for the next year King Henry prepared a mighty army to enter into Wales, being provoked thereto by the request of those who enjoyed a great part of the Welshmen's lands, but would not be satisfied till they got all. For Gilbert Strongbow, Earl of Strygill, upon whom the king had bestowed Cardigan, made great complaints of Owen ap Cadwgan, declaring that he received and entertained such persons as spoiled and robbed in his country, and Hugh Earl of Chester made the like of Gruffydh ap Conan, Prince of North Wales, that his subjects and the men of Grono ap Owen ap Edwyn, Lord of Tegengl, unreproved, wasted and burnt the country of Cheshire; and to aggravate the matter, he added further, that Gruffydh neither did any service, nor paid any tribute to the king. Upon these complaints, King Henry was so much enraged that he swore he would not leave one living creature remaining in North Wales and Powys-land, but that he would utterly extirpate the present race of people,

* Welsh Chron. 172.—Incidents like these, arising from the collision of contending parties, present, in sanguinary tints, a lively picture of barbarism.

and would plant a colony of new inhabitants. Then, dividing his army into three parts, he delivered one to the conduct of the Earl of Strygill, to go against South Wales, which comprehended the whole power of the fourth part of England and Cornwall; the next division was designed against North Wales, in which was all the strength of Scotland and the North, and was commanded by Alexander King of the Scots and Hugh Earl of Chester; the third the king led himself against Powys, and in this was contained the whole strength of the middle part of England. Meredith ap Blethyn hearing of these mighty preparations, and being informed that this vast army was designed against Wales, was apprehensive that the Welsh were not able to make any great defence, and therefore thought it his safest way to provide for himself beforehand, and so coming to the king, yielded himself up to his mercy. But Owen, fearing to commit himself to those whom he knew so greedily coveted his estate, and whom he was assured were far more desirous to dispossess the Welsh of their lands than in any other way to punish them for former crimes and miscarriages, fled to Gruffydh ap Conan in North Wales. Upon that King Henry converted his whole force that way, and came himself as far as Murcastelh, and the Scotch king to Pennant Bachwy, but the people flying to the mountains carried with them all the cattle and provision they had, so that the English could not follow them, and as many as attempted to come at them were either slain or wounded in the streights. Alexander King of the Scots finding that nothing could possibly be effected against the Welsh as long as they kept to the rocks and mountains, sent to Prince Gruffydh, advising him to submit himself to the king, promising him all his interest to obtain an honourable peace: but the prince was too well acquainted with English promises, and therefore refused his proposals; and so King Henry, being very unwilling to return without doing something in this expedition, sent to Owen to forsake the prince, who was not able to defend himself, but was ready to strike a peace with the Scottish king and the Earl of Chester. This cunning insinuation, however, did not take effect, for Owen was as distrustful of King Henry as Prince Gruffydh, and therefore he would hearken to no intreaties to revolt from him who had so long afforded him refuge; till at length his uncle Meredith, an old insinuating politician, persuaded him, with much ado, not to neglect the king of England's proposals, who offered him all his lands without tribute, in case he would come to his side; and Meredith advised him instantly

instantly to accept of his offer, before Prince Gruffydh made a peace with the king, which if it was once done, he would be glad upon any score to purchase the king's mercy. Owen being prevailed upon by such arguments, came to the king, who received him very graciously, and told him, that because he believed his promise, he would not only perform that, but likewise exalt him above any of his kindred, and grant him his lands free from any payment of tribute. Prince Gruffydh perceiving that Owen submitted to the king, thought it also his wisest way to sue for peace; and so promising the king a great sum of money, a peace was then actually agreed upon and confirmed, which the king of England was the more ready to consent to, because he found it impossible to do him any hurt whilst he continued encamped in that place. Some affirm that the submission, as well of Prince Gruffydh as of Owen, was procured by the policy of Meredith ap Blethyn and the Earl of Chester; this last working with Gruffydh, and assuring him that Owen had made his peace with the king before any such thing was in agitation, so that the prince yielding somewhat to the earl's request, if Owen had gone contrary to the oath which they had mutually taken, not to make any peace with the English without one another's knowledge, seemed to incline to a peace. On the other hand, Meredith going to his nephew Owen, affirmed for truth that the prince and the Earl of Chester were actually agreed, and the prince was on his journey to the king to make his submission. In the meanwhile Meredith took especial care that all messengers betwixt the prince and Owen should be intercepted, and by that means Owen submitted himself to the king.

King Henry having thus completed all his business in Wales, called Owen to him, and told him that in case he would go over with him to Normandy, and there be faithful to him, he would upon his return confirm all his promises upon him. Owen accepted the king's offer, and went with him to Normandy, where he behaved himself so gallantly, that he was made a knight; and after his return the year following, he had all his lands and estate confirmed unto him. About the same time Griffri bishop of St. David's A. D. 1112. died, and King Henry appointed to succeed him one Barnard a Norman, much against the good-will and inclination of the Welsh, who before this time were ever used to elect their own bishop. This year the rumour of Gruffydh, son to Rhŷs ap Theodore, was spread throughout South Wales, who, as the report went, for fear of the king, had been from a child brought up in Ireland, and having come over about

two

two years before, passed his time privately among his relations, particularly with Gerald, Steward of Pembroke, his brother-in-law. The noise of a new prince being spread abroad, it came at last to the ears of the King of England, that a certain person had appeared in Wales, who pretended to be the son of Rhŷs ap Theodore, late Prince of South Wales, and laid claim to that principality, which was now in the king's hands. King Henry being somewhat concerned with such a report, and fearing lest this new rival should create him some greater trouble, he thought to nip him in the bud, and sent down orders to apprehend him: but Gruffydh ap Rhŷs being aware of the traps laid against him, sent to Gruffydh ap Conan, Prince of South Wales, desiring his assistance, and that he might have liberty to remain safe in his country, which Gruffydh, for his father's account, readily granted, and treated him honourably. A little after, his brother Howel, who was imprisoned by Arnulph Earl of Pembroke in the castle of Montgomery, where he had remained for a long time, made his escape and fled to his brother, then with Gruffydh ap Conan in North Wales; but King Henry being informed that Gruffydh ap Rhŷs and his brother Howel were entertained by the Prince of North Wales, sent very smooth letters to Gruffydh ap Conan, desiring to speak with him, who being come, he received him with all the tokens of honour and friendship, and bestowed upon him very rich presents, as was the Norman policy, who usually made very much of those whom they designed afterwards to be serviceable to them. After some general discourse, King Henry came at length to the main point, and promised the prince immense sums if he would send Gruffydh ap Rhŷs or his head to him, which the prince, overcome by such fair words and large promises, engaged to perform, and so returned joyfully home, big with the expectation of his future reward.* Some persons, however, who wished better to Gruffydh ap Rhŷs and his brother Howel, suspected the occasion of the king's message, and therefore they advised them to withdraw themselves privately for some time, till Prince Gruffydh's mind should be better understood, and till it should be known whether he had made any agreement with the king of England to betray them to him. As soon as the prince was returned to his palace at Aberffraw, he enquired for Gruffydh ap Rhŷs, and learning in a little time where he was, he sent a troop of horse to recall him to his court, but Gruffydh hearing of their approach, with all speed made his escape to the church

* Welsh Chron. 176.

church of Aberdaron, and took sanctuary there.* But the Prince was so determined to make his promise good to the King of England, that without any respect to the religious place Gruffydd ap Rhŷs had escaped to, he commanded the same messengers to return, and to bring him away by force, which the clergy of the country unanimously withstood, protesting that they would not see the liberties of the church in the least infringed. Whilst the clergy and the prince's officers were thus at debate, some who had compassion upon the young prince, seeing how greedily his life was thirsted for, conveyed him out of North Wales to Stratywy in South Wales; and thus being delivered from the treacherous and more dishonourable practices of the Prince of North Wales, he was forced for the protection of his own life to bid open defiance to the King of England, and thereupon having raised all the forces which the shortness of the opportunity would permit, he made war upon the Flemings and Normans.†

The next year he laid siege to the castle which stood over against Arberth, and winning the same, levelled it with the ground, and from thence marched to Lhanymdhyfry castle, belonging to Richard de Pwns, upon whom the King had bestowed Cantrêf Bychan, but the garrison commanded by Meredith ap Rhytherch ap Caradoc so manfully defended it, that Gruffydh after killing only some few of the besieged, and burning the outworks, was forced to remove with no small loss of his own men. Finding this place impregnable, he came before Abertawy castle, which was built by Henry Beaumont, Earl of Warwick, but this proving too strong to be quickly surrendered, after he had burnt some of the outward buildings, he returned to Stratywy, burning and destroying all the country as he went along. His fame being now spread abroad throughout the country, all the wild and head-strong youths, and all those persons whose fortunes were desperate, resorted unto him from all parts, by which means his forces becoming strong and numerous, he made inroads into Rhos and Dyfed, spoiling and destroying the country before him. The Normans and Flemings were greatly enraged with these continual depredations, but how to remedy this mischief was not easily determined; after a long consultation, however, they thought it the best way to call together such Welsh lords as were friends to the king of England, as Owen ap Rhytherch, and Rhytherch ap Theodore, with his sons Meredith and Owen, whose A. D. 1113.

* A privileged place in the present county of Carnarvon.—Welsh Chron. 176.
† Ibid.

whose mother was Heynyth the daughter of Bletlıyn ap Confyn, and Owen ap Caradoc the son of Gwenlhian, another daughter of Blethyn, and Meredith ap Rhytherch. These declaring their loyalty and fidelity to King Henry, were desired to defend the king's castle of Carmardhyn, and that by turns; Owen ap Caradoc the first fortnight, and then by succession by Rhytherch ap Theodore and Meredith ap Rhytherch. Owen undertook the defence of Carmardhyn castle for the time required of him, and Blethyn ap Cadifor had committed to him the government of Abercomyn or Abercorran castle, which appertained to Robert Courtmain; but for all these preparations, Gruffydh ap Rhys had a wishful eye upon Carmardhyn, and therefore he sent out some spies to learn the strength and condition of the town, who bringing him a very flattering account, he marched by night, and rushing suddenly into the town, ordered his men to make a great shout, thereby to strike a terror into those within: Owen ap Caradoc the governor, being surprised by such an unexpected uproar, made all possible haste to the place where he had heard the shouting, and thinking that his men were at his heels, fell in among the enemy; but having none to support him, his men being all fled, he was after a manful defence cut in pieces; and so the town being taken, Gruffydh burnt every thing to the ground, excepting the castle, which was also much defaced; and then returning with a great deal of spoil and booty to his usual residence Stratywy, his forces were considerably increased by the accession of many young men, who came to him from all quarters, and thought that fortune so prospered his arms, that no body was able to stand before him. After this he marched to Gwyr, but William de Londres thinking it impossible to contend with him, forsook the castle with all his men in all haste, so that when Gruffydh was come thither, he found a great deal of cattle and spoil, and none to own them, and therefore he burnt down the castle, and carried away every thing of value in the country. When the Cardiganshire men heard how fortunately he succeeded in all his attempts, and being extremely fearful lest his next expedition should be against them, they sent to him, desiring him, as being their near relation and countryman, to take upon him the rule and government over them. Gruffydh willingly accepted of their offer, and coming thither, was joyfully received by the chief men in the country, who were Cadifor ap Grono, Howel ap Dinerth, and Trahaern ap Ithel, which three persons had forsaken Dyfed, by reason that it was so much burdened with Normans, Flemings, and Englishmen.

Englishmen. Nor was Cardigan free from strangers, who pretended to rule the country, but the people bearing in mind the continual wrong and oppression they received from them, imbibed an inveterate hatred to them, and were very glad to be delivered from their insolent and imperious oppressors: for King Henry, either by force and banishment of those that stood up for their liberty, or by corrupting those that were wavering, had brought all that country to his subjection, and bestowed what lands he thought fit upon his English or Norman favourites. Notwithstanding the strength of the English in this country, Gruffydh was not in the least cast down, but boldly coming on to Cardigan Iscoed, he laid siege to a fort that Earl Gilbert and the Flemings had built at a place called Blaen Porth Gwythan. After divers assaults, and the killing of several of the besieged, with the loss only of one of his men, Gruffydh took the place, and razing it to the ground, brought all the country thereabouts to subjection. This action proved very fatal to the English; for immediately upon this, they began to forsake their houses and habitations, thinking it dangerous for them to stay any longer in the country; and so the Welsh burnt or otherwise destroyed as far as Penwedic all the houses of those strangers whom Earl Gilbert had brought with him. Then Gruffydh besieged the castle of Stradpeithyll, which belonged to Ralph, Earl Gilbert's steward, and having made himself master of it, he put all the garrison to the sword. Removing from thence, he encamped at Glasgryg, a mile from Lhanbadarn, purposing to besiege Aberystwith castle next morning, but for want of provision necessary for his army, he deemed it expedient to take some cattle which grazed within the limits of the sanctuary.* Here it may be observed, that not only men enjoyed the privilege of these sanctuaries, but also cattle and horses, and whatever else lived within the liberties of them. The day following, Gruffydh marched in a disorderly manner towards the castle, not being apprehensive of any material opposition, because he was ignorant of the number of the garrison; and encamping upon an opposite hill, which was divided from the castle by a river, with a bridge over it, he called a council to determine with what engines they might with best success play against it, and so make a general assault. The Normans observing their disorder, very cunningly sent out some of their archers to skirmish with them, and so by degrees entice them to the bridge, where some of the best armed horsemen were ready to

* Welsh Chron. p. 179.

to issue out upon them. The Welsh not thinking the garrison so strong, approached near the bridge, still skirmishing with the Normans, who pretended to give way; but when they came very near, out sallied one on horseback, who would fain pass the bridge; but being received upon the points of their spears, he began to flag, and as he endeavoured to return, he fell off his horse, and so the Welsh pursued him over the bridge. The Englishmen seeing this, fled towards the castle, and the Welsh with all speed followed them to the top of the hill; but whilst they thought that the day was their own, a party of horse which lay in ambuscade under the hill rose up, and standing betwixt the Welsh and the bridge, prevented any succour coming to them; and the Welsh being thus hemmed in betwixt both parties, the former recoiling with greater strength, were so unmercifully cut off, that scarce one man was left living. When the rest of the Welsh army, that staid on the other side of the river, saw what number the garrison contained, and that they were strong beyond their expectation, they presently decamped, and with all speed departed out of the country.*

When King Henry was informed of all the mischief and cruelties that Gruffydh ap Rhys had committed among his subjects in Wales, he sent for Owen ap Cadwgan, desiring him and Lhywarch ap Trahaern to use all effectual methods to take or kill the arch-rebel Gruffydh, promising to send his son Robert immediately with an army to Wales for that purpose. Owen being very proud that the king put such confidence in him, encouraged his men to be now as industrious to merit the king's favour, as they had been formerly to deserve his displeasure; and so joining his forces with Lhywarch, they both marched to meet Prince Robert† at Stratywy, where they supposed Gruffydh ap Rhys had hid himself in the woods. When they were come to the frontiers of the country, they made a vow, that they would let neither man, woman, nor child escape alive; which so affrighted the people of the country, that all made what haste they could to save their lives, some by fleeing to the woods and mountains, and some by getting into the king's castles, from whence they had come but a little before. Then Owen and Lhywarch separated with distinct parties to scour the woods, which about Stratywy were very thick and secluded. Owen having entered with an hundred men, discovered the track of men and cattle, and followed their

* Welsh Chron. 180.

† Earl of Gloucester, the natural son of Henry, by Nest, his late concubine.

their footsteps so close, that within a little while he overtook them; and having slain a great many of them, and put the rest to flight, he carried away all their cattle back to his army.

But whilst Owen was busy in searching the woods, Gerald, Steward of Pembroke Castle, who with a great number of Flemings was upon his march to join the king's son, met with them who fled from Owen; who desiring help of Gerald, declared how Owen had forcibly drove them out, slain a great many of their companions, and spoiled them of all their goods. Gerald and his Flemings understanding that Owen was so nigh with such a small number of men, thought he had now very convenient opportunity to be revenged of him upon the account of his wife; and, therefore, to make sure work with him, he pursued him close into the woods. Owen being forewarned by his men that a great number followed him, and advised to make all speed to get away, was deaf to all such counsels, as thinking that they of whom his men were so much afraid of, were the king's friends, and therefore their integrity need not be questioned, since they had all respect to one common cause: but he found that a private quarrel is sometimes more regarded than the public good; and, therefore, when Gerald was advanced within bowshot, he greeted him with a volley of arrows, to shew how great a friend he was; but Owen, though persuaded to flee, was so little terrified at such an unwelcome salutation, that, notwithstanding the enemy were seven to one, yet he told them, that they were but Flemings, and such as always trembled at the hearing of his name. Then falling on with a great deal of courage, he was at the first onset struck with an arrow into the heart, of which wound he presently died; which when his men saw they all fled, and brought word to Lhywarch and the rest of their fellows of what had happened; and so suspecting the king's army, seeing they could not be trusted in their service, they all returned to their respective countries.*

Owen being in this manner unhappily slain, his brethren divided his lands betwixt them; excepting Caereineon, which properly belonged to Madawc ap Ryryd ap Blethyn: and which he had forcibly taken away from his uncle Meredith. His father Cadwgan had several children by different women; and, besides Owen, he had issue Madawc, by Gwenllhian, the daughter of Gruffydh ap Conan; Eineon, by

* Welsh Chron. 182.—"In this manner," says Warrington, "died, suitable to the tenor of his life, this bold and profligate chieftain."

by Sanna, the daughter of Dyfnwal; Morgan, by Efelhiw or Elhiw, the daughter of Cadifor ap Colhoyn, Lord of Dyfed; Henry and Gruffydh were by the daughter of the Lord Pigot, his wedded wife; Meredith, by Euroron Hoodliw; and Owen, by Inerth, the daughter of Edwyn. Some time afterwards, Eineon ap Cadwgan and Gruffydh ap Meredith ap Blethyn, besieged the castle of Cymmer, in Merionethshire, which was lately built by Uchtryd ap Edwyn; for Cadwgan had bestowed upon Uchtryd, his cousin-german, Merioneth and Cyfeilioc, upon condition, that in all cases he should appear his friend, and his sons after him; contrary to which promise he bore no manner of regard to Cadwgan's children after Owen's death; but to strengthen himself the better, he erected this castle of Cymmer, which very much displeased many of Cadwgan's sons; and therefore Eineon and Gruffydh, to make Uchtryd sensible of his error in despising them, attacked Cymmer Castle, and having slain divers of the garrison, the rest surrendered themselves; and so taking the possession of it, they divided the country betwixt them: Mowdhwy, Cyfeilioc, and half Penlhyn to Gruffydh ap Meredith; and the other half of Penlhyn, with all Merioneth, to Eineon.

The next year King Henry sailed with a great army into Normandy, against the French king, who with the Earl of Flanders and others attempted to make William, the son of Robert Curthoise, Duke of Normandy; but at the appearance of the King of England, they all dispersed and laid aside their intended design. About the same time Gilbert Strongbow, Earl of Strygill, to whom King Henry had given all Cardigan, departed this life, after being long ill of a consumption, much to the joy and satisfaction of the Welsh, who were much displeased that they should be deprived of their own natural Lord Cadwgan, from whom this country was taken, and be forced to serve a stranger, whose kindness they had no reason to expect. The year
A. D. 1115. following, an irreconcileable quarrel happened betwixt Howel ap Ithel, Lord of Ros and Ryfonioc, now Denbighland, and Riryd and Lhywarch the sons of Owen ap Edwyn; and when they could not otherwise agree, they broke out into an open war. Thereupon Howel sent to Meredith ap Blethyn, and to Eineon and Madawc, Cadwgan's sons, who came down from Merioneth with a party of four hundred well-disciplined men, and encamped in Dyffryn Clwyd. Riryd and Lhywarch, on the other hand, desired the assistance of their cousins, the sons of Uchtryd; and both armies meeting in the Vale of Clwyd, they

they attacked each other with much spirit and alacrity, and after a tedious and a bloody fight, Lhywarch, Owen ap Edwyn's son, was slain, and with him Iorwerth, the son of Nudh, a noble and a valorous person; and Riryd was forced to make his escape by flight: but though Howel obtained the victory, yet he did not long survive his fallen enemies; for having received a desperate wound in the action, he died of it within forty days; and then Meredith ap Blethyn, and the sons of Cadwgan, finding it dangerous to stay longer there, for fear of some French, who lay garrisoned in Chester, returned home with all speed.

King Henry was still in Normandy; and about this time, a very great battle was fought betwixt him and the French king, who was completely vanquished and overthrown, and had a great number of his nobles taken prisoners: but as King Henry returned the following year for England, one of the ships happened, by the negligence of the pilot, to be cast away, wherein perished the king's two sons, William, who was legitimate and heir apparent to the crown, and Richard, his base son, together with his daughter and niece, and several others of his nobility, to the number in all of one hundred and fifty persons. This unparalleled loss of so many kindred and friends did not perplex his mind so long, but that within a short time, he began to solace and raise his drooping spirits with the thoughts of a new wife; and, having married Adelice, the daughter of the Duke of Lovain, he purposed to go against Wales; and having prepared his forces, he led them in person to Powys-land. A.D. 1116. 1117. 1118.

When Meredith ap Blethyn, and Eineon, Madawc, and Morgan, the sons of Cadwgan, and lords of the country, heard of it, they sent to Gruffydh ap Conan, Prince of North Wales, desiring some help at his hands; who flatly refused, assuring them, that because he was at peace with the King of England, he could neither with honour nor safety send them any succour, nor permit them to come within his dominions. The lords of Powys receiving this unwelcome answer, and having no hope of any aid, were resolved to defend themselves as well as they could; and, therefore, they thought the most effectual means to annoy the enemy, and to keep them from entering into the country, was to watch and defend the straits by which the enemy must of necessity pass. Nor were they wrong in their policy; for it happened that the king himself, with a small number, advanced to one of these narrow passages, the rest of the army, by reason of their carriages having taken some

compass

compass about; which the Welsh perceiving, presently poured a shower of arrows upon them, and the advantage of the ground giving help to their execution, they slew and wounded a great many of the English. The king himself was struck in the breast, but the arrow did not hurt him, by reason of his armour,* yet he was so terrified with this unexpected conflict, and considering with himself, that he must receive several such brushes before he could advance to the plain country: and what was above all, being sensible that by such a rash misfortune he might lose all the honour and fame which he had before obtained, sent a message to parley with them who kept the passage, and with all assurance of safety, to desire them to come to the king. The Welsh being come, and questioned how they had such confidence to oppose the king, and to put his life in so much danger, made answer, that they belonged to Meredith ap Blethyn, and according to their master's orders they were resolved to keep the passage, or to die upon the spot. The king finding them so resolute, desired them to go to Meredith and propose to him an agreement of peace, which he and his cousins, the sons of Cadwgan, accepted of; and promised to pay the king 10,000 head of cattle, in retribution for former offences. And so King Henry leaving all things in a peaceable and quiet posture in Wales, and appointing the Lord Fitz-Warren warden or lieutenant of the Marches, returned to England.†

A. D. 1120. When a foreign enemy was removed out of the country, the Welsh could never forbear quarrelling with each other; and now Gruffydh ap Rhys ap Theodore, who had been for some time quiet, fell upon Gruffydh ap Sulhaern, and for some reason not discovered, treacherously slew him. The

1121. next year there happened another occasion of disturbances and falling out among the Welsh; for Eineon, the son of Cadwgan dying, left all his share of Powys and Merioneth to his brother Meredith. But his uncle Meredith ap Blethyn, thinking that these lands more properly belonged to him, ejected his nephew Meredith, to whom his brother Eineon had left them, and took possession of them himself. To augment these differences, King Henry set now at liberty Ithel ap Riryd ap Blethyn, Meredith's nephew, who had been for a long time detained in prison; and, who coming to his own country, was in expectation to enjoy his estate,

a which,

* Stowe's Chron. p. 140.—Welsh Chron. p. 185.

It was uncertain from whence this stroke proceeded; but Henry, the instant he felt it, swore "by the death of our Lord," his usual oath, that the arrow came not from a Welsh but an English bow.—William Malmsbury, p. 158, Frankfort edit.; Baker's Chron. p. 40.

† Welsh Chron. pp. 185, 186, 187.—Wm. Malmsbury, p. 159.

which, upon his being put in custody, his relations had divided betwixt them; of which, the greatest share fell to his uncle Meredith: but when Gruffydh ap Conan was informed that Meredith ap Blethyn, contrary to all justice, had taken away by force the lands of his nephew Meredith ap Cadwgan, he sent his sons Cadwalhon and Owen with an army into Merioneth, who conquering and bringing to subjection all the country, carried away the chief of the people and all the cattle to Lhyn: and at the same time the sons of Cadwgan entered into the lands of Lhywarch ap Trahaern, and cruelly wasted and destroyed it, because he had countenanced the doings of their uncle Meredith ap Blethyn. These inward clashings and animosities concerning estates and titles, were seconded by most unnatural bloodshed and unparalleled cruelties; for Meredith ap Blethyn, when he found that his nephew Meredith ap Cadwgan was assisted by the Prince of North Wales, and that it was impracticable to keep Merioneth from him, he was resolved to practise that upon his nephew, which he had failed to effect upon another: and, therefore, lest his A. D. 1122.
other nephew Ithel ap Riryd should meet with the like help and encouragement to recover those lands, which during his imprisonment were taken from him, and of which his uncle actually enjoyed a considerable share; Meredith thought he would prevent all disputes, by sending Ithel out of the world, which, upon mature deliberation, he treacherously effected. Nor was this the only murder committed at this time; for Cadwalhon, the son of Gruffydh ap Conan, exceeded him far for guilt, and slew his three uncles, Grono, Ryryd, and Meilyr, the sons of Owen ap Edwyn; and, what was most unnatural of all, Morgan ap Cadwgan with his own hands killed his brother Meredith, a crime most execrable, though he did afterwards repent of it.

Not long after this, Gruffydh ap Rhys, by the false and 1124.
invidious accusations of the Normans, was dispossessed of all the lands which King Henry had formerly granted him, and which he had for a considerable time peaceably enjoyed.* Towards the end of the same year died Daniel ap Sulgien, Bishop of St. David's, and Archdeacon of Powys, a man of extraordinary piety and learning, and one who made it his continual employment to endeavour to work a reconciliation betwixt North Wales and Powys, which in his time were continually at variance and enmity with one another. The next year died Gruffydh, the son of Meredith ap Blethyn;† 1125.
and

* Welsh Chron. 187.

† Welsh Chron. 188.—Having forsaken the interests of his native country, had long become a subject of the King of England.—Ibid.

and about the same time Owen ap Cadwgan, having got into his hands Meredith ap Llywarch, delivered him to Pain Fitz-John, to be kept safe prisoner in the castle of Bridgnorth. The reason of this was, because Meredith had slain Meyric, his cousin-german, and very barbarously had pulled out the eyes of two more of his cousins, the sons of Griffri. This cruel and inhuman custom of plucking out the eyes of such as they hated or feared was too frequently
A. D. 1126. practised in Wales; for the following year Ievaf the son of Owen served two of his brethren after this unnatural manner, and thinking that too little, passed a sentence of perpetual banishment upon them. A little after, his brother Lhewelyn ap Owen slew Iorwerth ap Lhywarch; but all this mischief practised by these two brothers Ievaf and Lhewelyn, recoiled at last upon themselves; for their uncle Meredith ap Blethyn, being apprehensive that his two nephews were much in his way, and that if they were put aside, all their estate would of right fall to him, he slew Ievaf outright, and having plucked out Lhewelyn's eyes, castrated him, for fear he should beget any children to inherit his lands after him. These, no doubt, were barbarous times, when for the least offence, nay sometimes suspicion, murder was so openly and incorrigibly committed; which must of necessity be attributed to this one evil, That so many petty states having equal power and authority in their own territories, and being subject to none but the king of England, still endeavoured to outvie and overtop each other: hence nearness of relation giving way to ambition, they never regarded those of the same blood, so that themselves might add to their strength, and increase their estate by their fall; and for this reason Meyric slew Lhywarch, and his son Madawc his own cousins, but before he could make any advantage by their death, he was himself served after the same manner. The only person who afterwards repented of such a foul crime, was Morgan ap Cadwgan, who being severely troubled in mind for the murder he had lately committed upon his brother Meredith, took a journey to Jerusalem to expiate his crime, and in his return from thence died in the island of Cyprus. This treacherous way of privately murdering those by whom they
1129. were offended, was prevalent among the Welsh; for Eineon the son of Owen ap Edwyn, remembering that Cadwalhon the son of Gruffydh ap Conan had basely slain three of his brothers, and taking the opportunity of his being at Nanhewdwy, he, assisted by Cadwgan ap Grono ap Edwyn, set upon him and slew him. About the same time, that great usurper

usurper Meredith ap Blethyn ap Confyn, who, by the most unnatural and horrid practices, had got the lands of all his brothers and nephews, and by that means was become a man of the greatest strength and sway in Powys, died of a fit of sickness, which had reduced him to such an apprehension of the consequences of his former misdeeds, that he did penance as an expiation of his guilt.

In the year 1134, till which time nothing of moment was transacted in Wales, Henry, the first of that name, King of England, died in Normandy in the month of October; after whom Stephen Earl of Buloign, son to the Earl of Blois, his sister's son, by the means of Hugh Bygod, was crowned king by the Archbishop of Canterbury, all the nobility of England consenting thereto; though contrary to a former oath they had taken to Maud the Empress. The first thing that employed his thoughts after his accession to the government, was against David King of the Scots; who taking advantage of this new revolution in England, by some treacherous means or other, got the towns of Carlisle and Newcastle into his hands: but King Stephen, though scarcely settled in his throne, presently marched towards the North; of whose coming David being assured, and fearing to meet him, voluntarily restored Newcastle, and compounded for Carlisle; but would not swear to him by reason of his oath to Maud; which, however, his son did not scruple to do; and thereupon was by King Stephen created Earl of Huntingdon. This alteration of affairs in England made also the Welsh bestir themselves; for Morgan ap Owen, a man of considerable quality and estate in Wales, remembering the wrong and injury he had received at the hands of Richard Fitz-Gilbert, slew him, together with his son Gilbert. And shortly after this, Cadwalader and Owen Gwyneth, the sons of Gruffydh ap Conan Prince of North Wales, having raised a mighty army, marched against the Normans and Flemings, and, coming to Cardigan,* committed very considerable waste and havock in the country, and took two of the strongest places, one belonging to Walter Espec,† and the castle of Aberystwyth. In this last place they were joined by Howel ap Meredith and Rhys ap Madawc ap Ednerth; who, marching forward, took the castle of Richard de la Mare, together with those of Dinerth and Caerwedros; and then returned with very valuable

A. D. 1134.

1135.

* Welsh Chron. p. 189.

† He built the castle called *Castell Gwalter*, in the parish of Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn. It was destroyed in the year 1135, by Cadwaladyr and Owain Gwynedd.

valuable booty. Having succeeded so well in this expedition, they could not rest satisfied till they had delivered the whole country from the intolerable pride and oppression of the Normans and Flemings; and, therefore, returning the same year to Cardigan with 6000 foot and 2000 horse, well disciplined and experienced soldiers; and being joined by Gruffydh ap Rhŷs and Howel ap Meredith of Brecknock with his sons, and Madawc ap Ednerth, they over-ran the country as far as Aberteifi, restoring all the former inhabitants to their proper inheritances, and discarding all such strangers as the late Earl of Strygil had placed in the country. But when Stephen, who was governor of Aberteifi, saw that, he called to him Robert Fitz-Martyn, the sons of Gerald, and William Fitz-John, with all the strength of the Normans, Flemings, and English in Wales or the Marches, and, meeting with the Welsh betwixt Aber Nedd and Aber Dyfi, gave them battle. After a very fierce and bloody encounter, the English began to give ground, and, according to their usual manner, trusting too much to the strength of their towns and fortifications, began to look how to save themselves that way; but the Welsh pressed upon them so hard, that they killed above 3000 men, besides several that were drowned, and many were taken prisoners. This victory being obtained, Cadwalader and Owen overran the whole country, forcing all the Normans and Flemings to depart the country with all speed, and placing in their room those miserable Welsh who had been so long deprived and kept from their own estates; and after they had thus cleared the country of their insatiable invaders, they returned to North Wales, laden with very rich spoils and acceptable plunder.* The king of England was not in a condition to take cognizance of the extremities his subjects were reduced to in Wales, because his own nobles of England were risen in arms against him; the reason of which tumult among the nobility was occasioned by a fallacious report that had been spread of the king's death, who then lay sick of a lethargy. They that bore him no goodwill spread the rumour as much as they could, and stirred up the common people in behalf of the Empress; whereas on the other hand the king's friends betook themselves to castles and strongholds for fear of the Empress, and among others Hugh Bygod secured the castle of Norwich, and after he was assured that the king was well again, he was loth to deliver the same out of his possession, unless it were
A. D. 1137. to the king's own hands. During these commotions and troubles

* Welsh Chron. p. 189.

troubles in England, Gruffydh ap Rhŷs, son to Rhŷs ap Theodore, the right heir to the principality of South Wales, died, leaving issue a son called Rhŷs, commonly known by the name of Lord Rhŷs, by Gwenlhian the daughter of Gruffydh ap Conan, who by some is said to have poisoned her husband.* Towards the end of the same year died likewise Gruffydh ap Conan, Prince of North Wales,† after he had reigned 57 years: his death was much lamented by all his subjects, because he was a prince of incomparable qualities, and one who, after divers victories obtained over the English, had thoroughly purged North Wales from all foreigners. He had issue by Angharad, the daughter of Owen ap Edwyn,‡ three sons,—namely, Owen, Cadwalader, and Cadwalhon,§ and five daughters,—Marret, Susanna, Ranulht, Agnes, and Gwenllhian; and by a concubine Iago, Ascain, Edwal (Abbot of Penmon), Dolhing, and Elen, who was married to Hova ap Ithel Felyn of Yal. There were several excellent laws enacted in his time; and among the rest, he reformed the great disorders of the Welsh minstrels, which were then grown to great abuse. Of these there were three sorts in Wales; the first were called Beirdh, who composed several songs and odes of various measures, wherein the poet's skill was not only required, but also a natural endowment, or a vein which the Latins term *furor poeticus*. These likewise kept the records of all gentlemen's arms and pedigrees, and were principally esteemed among all the degrees of the Welsh poets. The next were such as played upon musical instruments, chiefly the harp and the crowd or crwth; which musick Gruffydh|| ap Conan first brought over into Wales; who

* Gwenlhian, desirous of aiding the designs of her husband, took the field in person at the head of her own forces, attended by her two sons; but her army was defeated by Maurice de Londres. Morgan, one of her sons, was slain in the action, and her other son, Maelgwyn, was taken prisoner; and the princess herself, it is said, was beheaded by the orders of her brutal enemy.—Girald. Cambr. Itin. An action so savage, without precedent even in these times, called loudly for vengeance on the spirit of the injured princess. This circumstance clearly contradicts the assertion of Florentius Monk of Westminster, that Gwenlhian, wife to Gryffydh ap Rhys, by deceitful practices, had been the cause of his death.—Girald. Cambr. Itin. lib. i. c. iv. See Welsh Chron. p. 190.

† He died at the advanced age of eighty-two years, and was buried on the south side of the great altar in the church of Bangor.—Vita Griff. fil. Conani.

‡ Lord of Englefield.

§ He was slain before the death of his father.—Welsh Chron. p. 191.

|| An elegy on Gruffydh was sung by Meilyr Brydydd, which piece is preserved in the Welsh Archaiology, and concludes thus,—

"O, may the son of Cynan, of enlarged mind, be with Christ in the pure adoration of the region of glory! Since the chief of men obtains the social confidence of angels, as to my life I have not a longing wish: he is, through the meritorious mediation of One of the Unity of Trinity, in a purely splendid home of the celestial world."

who being born in Ireland, and descended by his mother's side of Irish parents, brought with him from thence several skilful musicians, that invented almost all the instruments which were afterwards played upon in Wales. The last sort were called Atcaneaid, whose business it was to sing to the instruments played upon by another. Each of these, by the same statute, had their several reward and encouragement allotted to them; their life and behaviour was to be spotless and unblameable, otherwise their punishment was very severe and rigid, every one having authority to punish and correct them, even to the deprivation of all they had. They were also interdicted and forbidden to enter any man's house, or to compose any song of any one, without the special leave and warrant of the party concerned; with many other ordinances relating to the like purpose.

OWEN GWYNEDH.

A. D. 1137. AFTER the death of Gruffydh ap Conan, his eldest son Owen, surnamed Gwynedh, succeeded in the principality of North Wales; who had no sooner entered upon the government than, together with the rest of his brethren, he made an expedition into South Wales, and having demolished and overthrown the castles of Stradmeyric, Stephan, and Humffrey, and laid in ashes the town of Caermardhyn,* he returned home with no less honour than booty and plunder. About the same time, John, Archdeacon of Lhanbadarn, departed this life, a man of singular piety and strictness of life, who, for his rigid zeal in religion and virtue, was thought worthy to be canonized, and to be counted among the number of the saints. This year likewise King Stephen passed over to Normandy, and having concluded a peace with the French king and the Duke of Anjou, returned back to England without any further delay: but the following spring gave opportunity for greater undertakings; David king of Scots, upon the king of England's going to France last summer, had entered the borders of England, and continued to make considerable waste and havock in that part of the country. Whereupon King Stephen, to rid his country and his subjects from so dangerous an enemy, marched with an army towards the North, whose coming the king of Scots hearing of, he relinquished

* Welsh Chron. p. 193.—He retained in his possession all Caerdigan, compelled the inhabitants of Pembroke to pay him tribute, and returned to his own dominions in high reputation.—Brit. Ant. Rev. by Vaughan of Hengwrt, p. 23.

quished the borders of England, and retired to his own country. But that did not satisfy King Stephen, who desired to be further revenged for the unpardonable hostilities committed by the Scots in his dominions; and therefore pursuing them to their own country, he harassed and laid waste all the south part of the kingdom of Scotland. The king's absence, however, animated several of the English nobility to rebel; for which purpose they fortified every one of their castles and strongholds; William Earl of Gloucester those of Leeds and Bristol; Ralph Lunel, Cari; William Fitz-Alan, Shrewsbury; Paganellus, Ludlow; William de Moyun, Dunester; Robert de Nichol, Warham; Eustace Fitz-John, Merton; and Walklyn, Dover. Notwithstanding all these mighty preparations, the king in a short time became master of them all; some he won by assault, others upon fair promises and advantageous conditions were surrendered, and some he got by treacherous under-hand contrivances. The Scots thought to take advantage of these commotions in England; and thereupon, as soon as they heard that some of the nobility were in actual rebellion against the king, they entered into the borders, and began, as they thought without any apprehension of opposition, to ravage and lay waste the country before them: but William Earl of Albemarle, William Pyppell Earl of Nottingham, Walter Espec, and Gilbert Lacy, gathered together all the forces they could raise in the North; and being animated and encouraged by the eloquent and pressing oration of Ralph Bishop of Orkneys, which he delivered in the audience of the whole army, they set upon the Scots at Almerton with such courage that, after a very great slaughter of his men, King David was glad to escape with his life by flight. After this, King Stephen seized to his own use the castles of Ludlow and Leeds, and pressed the bishops of Salisbury and Lincoln so hard, that to prevent their perishing by famine, they were constrained to surrender; the former the castles of Vises and Shirburn, the latter those of Newark-upon-Trent and Sleeford. This greatly augmented the king's strength against the ensuing storm; for in the summer this year, Maud the Empress, daughter and heir to King Henry, to whom King Stephen and all the nobility of England had sworn allegiance, landed at Arundel, with her brother Robert Earl of Gloucester, and was there honourably received, by William de Albineto, who was lately married to Queen Adeliz, King Henry's widow, with whom he received the Earldom of Arundel in dowry. As soon as

King

King Stephen heard of her landing, he marched with all possible speed to Arundel, and laid siege to the castle; but finding it impregnable, he raised the siege, and by that means suffered the Empress and her brother to escape to Bristol.

A.D. 1138. The next year an unlucky accident fell out in Wales; Cynric, one of Prince Owen's sons, having by some means or other disgusted Madawc ap Meredith ap Blethyn ap Confyn, a person of considerable esteem and estate in the country, was by his connivance set upon and slain by his men. The affairs of England this year afforded greater rarity of action; King Stephen with a formidable army laid siege to the city of Lincoln, to the relief of which, Ranulph Earl of Chester, and Robert Earl of Gloucester, marched with their forces: but before they could arrive, the town was taken; whereupon they drew up their forces in order to give the king battle, who on the other side was ready to receive them. King Stephen drew up his forces in three divisions, the first being led by the Earls of Britain, Mellent, Norfolk, Hampton, and Warren; the second by the Earl of Albemarle, and William of Ypres; and the third by the king himself, assisted by Baldwyn Fitz-Gilbert, with several others of his nobility. Of the enemy's side, the disinherited barons had the first place; the Earl of Chester, with a considerable party of Welshmen, far better couraged than armed, led the second; and the Earl of Gloucester the third division. After an obstinate battle on both sides, the victory at length favoured the barons, King Stephen being first taken prisoner, and a little after the queen, together with William of Ypres and Bryan Fitz-Count; but within a while after, William Martell and Geoffrey de Mandeville gathered together some fresh forces, and fought the Empress and her brother at Winchester, and having put the Empress to flight, took Earl Robert prisoner, for exchange of whom,

1139. the king was set at liberty. The next year King Stephen adventured another battle, and received a second overthrow at Wilton; which, however, did not so much discourage him, but that he laid so close a siege to the Empress and her forces at Oxford, that she was glad to make her escape to Wallingford. The same year died Madawc ap Ednerth, a person of great quality and note in Wales; and Meredith ap Howel, a man in considerable esteem, was slain by the sons of Blethyn ap Gwyn.

1140. For the two succeeding years nothing remarkable passed in Wales; excepting that this year Howel ap Meredith ap Rhytherch of Cantref Bychan, and Rhŷs ap Howel were

slain

slain in a cowardly manner by the treachery and perfidious practices of the Flemings; and the next year Howel ap Meredith ap Blethyn was basely murdered by his own men; at which time, Howel and Cadwgan the sons of Madawc ap Ednerth, upon some unhappy quarrel, killed each other. A. D. 1141.

Shortly after this, an irreconcileable difference fell out betwixt Anarawd son to Gruffydh ap Rhŷs, Prince of South Wales, and his father-in-law Cadwalader the son of Gruffydh ap Conan, and brother to Prince Owen Gwynedh; which from words quickly proceeded to blows. In this dispute Anarawd was unhappily slain; which so exasperated Prince Owen against his brother Cadwalader, that, together with his son Howel, he marched with an army into his brother's country, and after a considerable waste and destruction, burnt to the ground the castle of Aberystwyth. Cadwalader, upon hearing the news of Prince Owen's approach, withdrew himself and fled to Ireland; where having hired a great number of Irish and Scots for two thousand marks, under the command of Octer, and the sons of Turkel and Cherulf, he sailed for Wales, and landed at Abermeny,* in Carnarvonshire. The Prince marched instantly to prevent their farther progress into the country; and both armies being come in view of each other, a peace was happily concluded betwixt the two brothers. The Irish understanding this, and that their coming over was likely to prove but a fool's errand to them, they surprised and secured Cadwalader, till their wages and arrears were paid; who, to obtain his liberty, delivered to them two thousand head of cattle, besides many prisoners, and other booty, which they had taken in the country: but as soon as the prince was informed that his brother Cadwalader was set free, he fell upon the Irish, and having slain a very considerable number of them, recovered all the booty they purposed to ship off, and forced as many as could escape to return with great loss, and a greater shame, back to Ireland.† 1142.

The Normans, however, had far better success in Wales; Hugh son to Radulph Earl of Chester, having fortified his castle of Cymaron, entered and won the country of Melienyth a second time; and the castle of Clun being fortified by another lord, all Elvel became subject to the Normans. At the same time King Stephen took Geoffrey Mandeville prisoner at St. Albans, where the Earl of Arundel, by the fall of his horse, had nearly been drowned in the river: but the Earl of Mandeville, to obtain his liberty, delivered up to the king the tower of London, with the castles of Walden and

* Abermenai. † Welsh Chron. p. 197.

and Plassey, which reduced him to such a condition, that he was forced to live upon the plunder and spoil of abbies and other religious houses, till at length he was slain in a skirmish against the king, and his son was banished.

A. D. 1144. The next year a skirmish happened betwixt Hugh de Mortimer and Rhŷs ap Howel, wherein the latter was taken prisoner, with many others of his accomplices, who were all committed to prison by the English: but it fared much better with Howel* and Conan, the sons of Prince Owen, who having raised an army against the Flemings and Normans, gained a considerable victory at Aberteifi,† and having placed a garrison in the town, returned home with great honour and much booty.

About the same time, Sulien ap Rhythmarch, one of the college of Lhanbadarn, and a person of great reading and extensive learning, departed this life. Shortly after, Gilbert Earl of Clare came with a great number of forces to Dyfed, and built the castle of Caermardhyn, and the castle of the

1145. sons of Uchtryd.‡ Hugh Mortimer likewise slew Meyric ap Madawc ap Riryd ap Bleddin, and Meredith ap Madawc ap Ednerth. Thus far it went of the side of the English; but now the Welsh began to gain ground: Cadelh the son of Gruffydh ap Rhŷs, Prince of South Wales, laid siege to the castle of Dynefawr,§ belonging to Earl Gilbert, which being surrendered, Cadelh, assisted by his brethren Meredith and Rhŷs, brought his army before the castle of Caermardhyn, which after a short siege yielded in a like manner, on condition, however, that the garrison should not be put to the sword.‖

From thence he marched to Lhanstephan,¶ and encamped before the castle; to the relief of which the Normans and Flemings coming with their forces, were completely vanquished, and the castle was speedily delivered up to the Welsh. The Normans were so much incensed at this, that they mustered all the forces they could draw together out of the neighbouring countries, and unexpectedly surrounded the castle, intending by all possible means to recover the same: but the governor, Meredith ap Gruffydh, a man of great years, and no less experience, so animated and encouraged the besieged, that when the Normans and Flemings ventured to scale the walls, they were beat back with such vigour,

* Besides being a gallant warrior, Prince Howel was a bard of some eminence: he wrote an account of his battles in verse, and some love verses, in a most elegant manner; several of which appear in the Welsh Archaiology.

† Welsh Chron. p. 198. ‡ Ibid.

§ Dinas Faur, or the Great Palace. ‖ Welsh Chron. p. 198.

¶ Llan Stephan, situate on the mouth of the river Towi, in the county of Caermarthen.

vigour, and loss on their side, that at length they were compelled to raise the siege, and leave the Welsh in possession of the castle.*

Shortly after this, Run,† the son of Prince Owen of North Wales, a youth of great promise and incomparable qualifications, died, whose death his father took so much to heart, that for some time he seemed to be past all comfort, being fallen into such a melancholy disposition, that he was satisfied with nothing but retirement: but an accident fell out, which roused him out of this lethargical fit of sorrow and discontent: the castle of Mold was so very strong and well garrisoned by the English, that it greatly annoyed the country thereabouts, and had been frequently besieged, but could never be taken. Prince Owen at this time levied an army, and laid close siege to it; and the garrison throughout several assaults behaved itself so manfully, that the place seemed impregnable: but the presence and example of Prince Owen so encouraged his men, that they renewed the attack with all possible vigour and might, and at last forced their entrance into the castle. Having put a great number of the garrison to the sword, and taken the rest prisoners, the castle was razed to the ground; and this fortunate attempt so pleased the prince, that he forgot all sorrow for his son, and returned to his usual temper and accustomed merriments. At the same time, King Stephen of England obtained a remarkable victory over his enemies at Farendon; and although the ensuing year Randal Earl of Chester and he were reconciled, yet he thought it more adviseable to detain him prisoner, though contrary to his promise, until such time as the Earl would deliver up the castle of Lincoln, with all the forts and places of strength in his custody.

The next year, Cadelh, Meredith, and Rhŷs, the sons of Gruffydh ap Rhŷs ap Theodore brought an army before the castle of Gwys; but finding themselves too weak to master it, they desired Howel, son to Prince Owen Gwynedh, a person famous for martial endowments, to come to their assistance. Howel, who was very desirous of signalizing himself, and of evidencing his valour to the world, readily consented to their request; and having drawn his forces together, marched directly towards Gwys, where being arrived, he was joyfully received, and honourably entertained by such lords as desired his help. Having viewed the strength and fortification of the castle, he found it was impracticable A. D. 1146.

* Welsh Chron. p. 198.

† A favourite, though an illegitimate son.—Welsh Chron. p. 226.

practicable to take the place, without the walls could be destroyed; and therefore he gave orders that certain battering engines should be provided, whilst the rest should harass and molest the besieged, by throwing great stones into the castle.* The enemies perceiving what irresistible preparations the besiegers contrived, thought it to no purpose to withstand their fury; and therefore to do that voluntarily which must be done by compulsion, they presently yielded up the castle. Shortly after this a great difference happened betwixt the sons of Prince Owen, Howel and Conan, and their uncle Cadwalader; whereupon the former entered with an army into the country of Merioneth, and committed great wastes and hostilities there, insomuch that the inhabitants flocked into sanctuaries to save their lives: but the young lords finding what a fearful and unsettled condition the people were in, and the better to draw them to their side, issued a proclamation, assuring them that all who would favour their country, should not only enjoy their lives, but their former liberty and accustomed privileges; upon the publication of which edict, the people returned to their own habitations. Having by this stratagem brought all the country under their own pleasure and good will, they led their army before the castle of Cynvael, belonging to Cadwalader, which he had built and strongly fortified. The government of this castle Cadwalader had committed to Merfyn, abbot of Tŷgwyn, or the White House; who being summoned to surrender, by the brothers Howel and Conan, did not only refuse, but defied their utmost efforts upon the place. The lords finding they could do no good by threats and menaces, judged it more convenient to make use of the other extreme; and therefore promised the abbot a very high reward, if he would deliver the castle into their hands: but all proved of no effect, the abbot being a person of more honesty and greater honour than to be corrupted to betray his trust, told them flatly that he would not deceive his master's expectation, and therefore would choose rather to die with honour, than to live with shame. The lords finding him inexorable, and withal being vexed that a churchman should put such a stop to their fortunate proceedings, made such a vigorous assault upon the castle, that after they had pulled down some part of the walls, they entered in by force, and ravaged so furiously, that they killed and wounded the whole garrison, the abbot only escaping, who, by the help of some of his friends in Howel's army, got away safe.† Towards the close of this year, several

* Welsh Chron. p. 200. † Welsh Chron. p. 201.

several persons of note departed this life, among whom were Robert Earl of Gloucester, and Gilbert Earl of Clare, as also Uchthryd bishop of Llandâff, a man of great piety and learning, in whose see succeeded Nicholas ab Gurgant.

The following year also died Bernard bishop of St. David's, and was succeeded by David Fitzgerald, then archdeacon of Cardigan. A.D. 1147. Sometime after, Prince Owen Gwynedh built a castle in Yale, called Castelh y Rodwyth; and his brother Cadwalader built another at Lhanrystid, and bestowed his part of Cardigan upon his son Cadwgan. Also Madoc the son of Meredith ap Blethyn founded the castle of Oswestry, and gave his nephews Owen and Meyric, the sons of Gruffydh ap Meredith, his share of Cyfeilioc. 1148.

The next year Conan son to Prince Owen Gwynedh, for certain faults and miscarriages committed against his father, though the particulars are not discovered, was put in prison, where for some time he continued in custody. But it fared better with his brother Howel, who having made his uncle Cadwalader his prisoner, reduced all his country, together with his castle, subject to himself. In South Wales, some business of moment happened this year; Cadelh the son of Gruffydh ap Rhŷs having fortified the castle of Carmardhyn, marched with his army towards Cydwely, wasted and destroyed the whole country, and being returned home, joined his army with his brothers Meredith and Rhŷs, who entering into the country of Cardigan, won that part called Is Aeron. This was succeeded by an action of greater importance in North Wales; some irreconcileable difference arising betwixt Prince Owen and Randal Earl of Chester, it quickly broke out into open war. The Earl made all the preparations the time would permit, and drew together a considerable army from all parts of England, and what strengthened and encouraged him the more, he was joined by Madoc ap Meredith Prince of Powys, who disdaining to hold his lands of Prince Owen Gwynedh, chose rather to side with and abet his enemies. The prince, on the other hand, was not backward in his preparations, and perceiving the enemy to come upon him, thought it adviseable not to suffer him to advance too far into the country, but to stop and prevent his career before he should take too firm a footing in his dominions. To this end he marched with his whole power as far as Consyllt in Flintshire, with full resolution to give the Earl of Chester battle, which the English were glad of, as thinking themselves far more numerous, and much better armed and disciplined than the Welsh: but both armies having joined battle, the English quickly faltered in their expectation of success, and finding the Welsh to press irresistibly 1149.

irresistibly upon them, they thought it wiser to retire, and endeavour to save themselves by flight: the Welsh, however, pursued them so hard that few escaped being either slain or taken prisoners, and they some of the chief commanders, who through the fleetness of their horses avoided the fury of their pursuers.*

A.D. 1150. The next year the scene of action removed to South Wales; Cadelh, Meredith, and Rhŷs, the sons of Gruffydh ap Rhŷs, Prince of South Wales, being entered with an army into Cardigan, won all the country from the son of Howel Prince of North Wales, excepting the castle of Lhanfihangel in Pengwern. The siege of Lhanrystyd castle proved so difficult, that the young lords of South Wales lost a great part of their bravest soldiers before it, which so enraged them, that when they got possession of the castle, they put all the garrison to the sword. From thence they marched to Ystradmeyric castle, which after they had won, manned, and re-fortified, they disbanded their forces, and returned home. But Cadelh, the eldest of the brothers, was upon the point of receiving that blow by treachery at home, which he had escaped from the enemies abroad; for some of the inhabitants of Tenby in Pembrokeshire, having conceived a displeasure and hatred against Cadelh, were resolved to revenge themselves, and to lay a trap for his life; and having observed that he took great pleasure in hunting, were resolved to execute their plot, whilst he was hot and eager at his sport. Observing, therefore, one day that he went a hunting with only a few companions, they placed themselves in ambuscade, and when the game came that way, they unexpectedly set upon the unarmed sportsmen, and having easily made all the rest fly away, they wounded Cadelh so cruelly, that he narrowly escaped their hands alive; he made shift, however, to get home, lay for a long time dangerously ill, and with great difficulty at length recovered his life. Upon this, his brothers Meredith and Rhŷs passed with an army into Gwyr, and having burnt and destroyed the country thereabouts, they besieged and took the castle of Aberlhychwr, but finding they could not keep it, they razed it to the ground, and after that returned home with great booty to Dynevawr, and repaired the fortifications of the castle there.† About the same time also, Howel, Prince Owen Gwynedh's son, fortified Humphry's castle in the valley of Caletwr.

1151. But the following year Prince Owen did a very barbarous action to Cunetha, his brother Cadwalhon's son; for, being apprehensive

* Welsh Chron. p. 202.—Hist. Gwedir Family, p. 4.

† The ancient palace of their ancestors.

apprehensive lest this young man should lay claim to any part of his estate as his father's right, he first pulled out his eyes, and afterwards castrated him, that he should not beget any children to renew a claim to Cadwalhon's estate.* This inhuman severity was succeeded by another of no small remark; Lhewelyn, son to Madoc ap Meredith, having watched a convenient opportunity, set upon and slew Stephen the son of Baldwin: but Cadwalader, Prince Owen's brother, after a tedious imprisonment which he had sustained through the malice and rancour of his nephew Howel, at length made his escape, and flying to the Isle of Anglesey, brought a considerable part of that island under his subjection. Prince Owen hearing that his brother had escaped from custody, and that he was in actual possession of a great part of Anglesey, immediately dispatched an army over, which proving too formidable to Cadwalader's party, he was constrained to escape to England, and to desire succour from the relations of his wife, who was the daughter of Gilbert Earl of Clare.† This year Galfrede Arthur, commonly called Geoffrey of Monmouth, was made bishop of St. Asaph, and at the same time Simon Archdeacon of Cyfeilioc, a man of great worth and esteem in his country, died.

The year following, Meredith and Rhŷs, the sons of Gruffydh ap Rhŷs Prince of South Wales, laid siege to Penwedic castle, which belonged to Howel, Prince Owen's son, and after great pains and considerable loss of men on their side, at last made themselves masters of it. From thence they marched by night to Tenby, and unexpectedly falling upon the castle, of which one Fitzgerald was governor, they scaled the walls before the garrison were aware of any danger, and so possessing themselves of the castle, they fell upon the garrison, in revenge of the mischief they had done and further designed to their brother Cadelh: for Cadelh at this time was gone upon a pilgrimage, and during his absence had committed his whole inheritance and all other concerns in Wales to the care of his brethren, Meredith and Rhŷs. After the taking of Tenby castle, they divided their army into two parties, with one of which Rhŷs marched to Ystratcongen; and after great havock and waste committed there, he passed to Cyfeilioc, which fared in like manner with Ystratcongen. Meredith, with the other party, encamped before Aberavan castle, and after a short siege won and got possession of it, and then returned home A. D. 1152.

* Welsh Chron. p. 203.
† Memoirs of Gwedir Family, p. 5.—Welsh Chron. 203.

home with very considerable booty and many rich spoils. About the same time, Randal Earl of Chester, who had lived in continual enmity and frequent hostility with Prince Owen of North Wales, departed this life, leaving his son Hugh to enjoy both his titles and estate in England, and to prosecute the feuds and hostilities against the Welsh.

A.D. 1153. Shortly after died Meredith, son to Gruffydh ap Rhŷs, Prince of South Wales, who was Lord of Cardigan, Ystratywy, and Dyfed, being not passed the twenty-fifth year of his age; a person of incomparable valour and enterprize, and in all his attempts and achievements very fortunate. He was presently followed by Geoffrey Bishop of Llandâff, a man as famous for learning and a good life as the other was for masculine bravery and martial prowess. In England the face of things looked very lowering; Henry, surnamed Shortmantle, the empress's son, landed in England, and in his progress through the country took several castles, among which were Malmesbury, Wallingford, and Shrewsbury: but his fury was quickly appeased by the death of Eustace, King Stephen's son, so that the sole obstacle to his succeeding to the throne being now removed, he willingly concluded a peace with King Stephen, permitting him to enjoy the crown peaceably for his life, upon condi-
1154. tion that he should be declared his successor. King Stephen did not long survive this treaty; and then Henry Plantagenet, the Empress's son, was crowned in his stead.

1155. Towards the beginning of King Henry's reign, Rhŷs Gruffydh ap Rhŷs, King of South Wales, upon apprehension that Owen Gwynedh had raised an army for the conquest of South Wales, drew together all his strength, and marched to Aberdyfi to face the enemy upon their own borders: but finding the rumour to be false, and that the prince of North Wales had no such design in hand, having built a castle at Aberdyfi, which might defend the frontiers from any future attempt on his country, he returned back without attempting any thing farther. At the same time, Madoc ap Meredith built a castle at Caereneon near Cymer, and then Eglwys Fair* in Meivod was founded. About this time also, Meyric, nephew to Prince Madoc ap Meredith, made his escape out of prison, wherein he had been detained by his uncle for a considerable time.

The same year, King Henry, being displeased with the Flemings, whom his predecessor King Stephen had brought over into England, issued a proclamation, charging the greatest part of them to depart his dominions, and to retire to

* For Mair—Saint Mary's Church.

to their countrymen in West Wales, where his grandfather, Henry the First, the bastard's son, had planted them:* and thus that part of Wales called Pembrokeshire was over-run with these strangers, who, being more befriended by the kings of England than the Welsh could expect to be, made sure footing in that country, where they have ever since continued firm. It was the English policy of those times to accept any opportunity to curb and keep under the Welsh, whom they found by experience to be unsafe neighbours, and therefore the kings of England granted various lands and privileges in Wales to any that would receive them, which lands and privileges they had of right no power to bestow.

This, however, was not detrimental enough to the Welsh; A. D. 1156. for the year following King Henry raised a very great army, which he gathered from all parts of England, for the purpose of subduing all North Wales,† being principally moved hereto by the instigation of Cadwalader the prince's brother, whom Owen Gwynedh, for reasons not known, deprived of his estate, and banished the country. Madoc ap Meredith Prince of Powys (who maligned the liberty and privilege of the princes of North Wales, who owned subjection to no other than the king of England, whereas those of Powys were obliged to do homage to the prince of North Wales) also jointly consented to this invitation. The king of England accepted their proposals, led his army to West-Chester, and encamped upon the marsh called Saltney, which borders on the river Dee, in Welsh Morfa-Caer-Lleon. Prince Owen, all this while, was not ignorant of the intended invasion; and therefore having made all possible preparations to confront the enemy, he marched his army to the frontiers of England, and, encamping at Basingwerk,‡ resolved to give the English battle. King Henry being informed of the prince's resolution, detached some of the best troops out of the main body, under the command of several earls and other noblemen, and sent them towards the prince's camp: but after they had advanced some little way, and were passing through a wood called Coed-Eulo,§ David and Conan, Prince Owen's sons,

* Welsh Chron. p. 205.

† Such were the mighty preparations which this prince made for the conquest of Wales, that he compelled every two of his military vassals throughout England to find a soldier to reinforce his army, and to enable him with greater vigour to prosecute the war. —Matth. Paris, p. 81. There were sixty thousand knights' fees created by the Conqueror, which must make the levy of Henry raised at this time 30,000 men.—Hume's Hist. Eng. vol. ii. p 2. Appendix, p. 141.

‡ Near Holywell, in the county of Flint. § Near Hawarden.

sons, unexpectedly set upon them, and by the advantage of the ground and the suddenness of the action, the English were repulsed with great slaughter, and those who survived narrowly escaped to the king's camp.* This was a very unwelcome beginning to King Henry; but in order that he might succeed better hereafter, he thought it advisable to depart from Saltney and to arrange his troops along the sea-coast, thinking thereby to get betwixt Prince Owen and his country, which if he could effect, he thought he was sure to place the Welsh in a state of very great inconvenience; but the prince, foreseeing the danger of this, retired with his army to a place called Cil Owen, that is, Owen's Retreat, which when King Henry perceived, he relinquished his design, and proceeded to Ruthlan. W. Parnus writes, that in this expedition against the Welsh, King Henry was in great danger of his life, in passing through a strait at Counsyllt near Flint, where Henry Earl of Essex, who by inheritance enjoyed the office of bearing the standard of England, being attacked by the enemy, cast down the same and fled.† This accident encouraged the Welsh, and they bore down so violently, that the king himself narrowly escaped, having of his party Eustace Fitz-John and Robert Curcie, two valiant knights, together with several others of his nobility and gentry, slain in the action.‡

Lib. 2. cap. 5.

After this, Prince Owen decamped from Cil Owen, and intrenched himself upon Bryn ŷ Pin,§ where little of moment passed between the two armies, but some slight skirmishes happened frequently. King Henry in the mean time fortified the castle of Ruthlan, and during his stay there, Madoc ap Meredith, Prince of Powys, sailed with the English fleet to Anglesey, and having put some men on shore, they burnt two churches, and ravaged part of the country about: but they paid very dear for it, for all the strength of the island being met together, they fell upon them in their return to their ships, and cut them off, so that not one remained to bring tidings to the fleet of what had befel him. They on board, however, quickly perceived what had happened, and therefore thought it not very safe to continue on that coast, but

* Welsh Chron p. 206.

† The year following, Essex was accused of high treason by Roger de Montford; and being vanquished by him in a single combat, which happened in consequence, he was condemned to death by King Henry, though the severity of the sentence was afterwards mitigated by that prince: his estate, however, was confiscated, and, after being shorn like a monk, he was confined during his life in a convent.—Lord Lyttelton's History of Henry II.

‡ Holinshead's Chron. p. 67.—Chronica Gervasii p. 1380.

§ A stronger post, situate three miles west of St. Asaph.—Stowe's Chron. p. 109; a manuscript copy in Welsh, by Caradoc of Llancarvan.

but judging it more adviseable to weigh anchor, they set sail for Chester;* when they were arrived thither, they found that a peace was actually concluded betwixt King Henry and Prince Owen, upon condition that Cadwalader should have all his lands restored to him and be received to the favour and friendship of his brother. Then King Henry, leaving the castles of Ruthlan and Basingwerk well manned and fortified, and having near the latter founded a public structure for the order of Knights Templars, returned to England: but the troubles of Wales did not end with his expedition, for Iorwerdh Goch ap Meredith, who had taken part with the king of England during this war, laid siege to the castle of Yale, which was built by Prince Owen, and, making himself master of it, rased it to the ground.

The next year commenced with a very unfortunate action: A. D. 1157.
Ifor ap Meyric having long before cast a very wishful eye upon the land and estate of Morgan ap Owen, was now resolved to put in execution what he had before contrived, and, as covetousness seldom bears any regard to virtue or honour, he treacherously attacked him and slew him; and with him fell Gurgan ap Rhŷs, the most famous British poet of his time. Morgan's estate Ifor bestowed upon his brother Iorwerth, who about the same time got also possession of the town of Caer-Lheon. These home-bred disturbances were mitigated by a general peace, which was shortly after this time concluded betwixt the king of England and all the princes and lords of Wales, Rhŷs ap Gruffydh ap Rhŷs Prince of South Wales only excepted:† for this Prince Rhŷs, who probably would not rely implicitly upon the king of England's fidelity, refused to consent to a peace; but to secure himself as well as he could from the English, whom he had too much reason to fear, he thought it most prudent to issue orders, commanding his subjects to remove their cattle and other effects to the wilderness of Tywy, where they were likely to remain secure from the eyes and reach of the enemy. He had not, however, continued there long, when he received a more positive and express order from King Henry, commanding him to appear forthwith at court, and to accept the proposals of peace, before the joint forces of England and Wales were sent to fetch him. Prince Rhŷs having received

* Welsh Chron. p. 207.—Giraldus Cambr. Itin. lib. ii. cap. 7. William Newburgh, lib. ii. cap. 5. Brompton's Chron. p. 1048.

† Rhŷs was the eldest of six towardly sons, which his father Gruffydd had by Gwenllian, the fair daughter of Gruffydd ap Conan Prince of North Wales, and, surviving them all, obtained the dominion of South Wales.—Panton Papers.

ceived such a threatening message, thought fit to relinquish the design that he had before so rashly resolved upon, and therefore, after long consultation, he accepted the king's proposal and appeared at court. It was there agreed, that Rhŷs, whose lands heretofore lay scattered about and were intermixed with other persons' estates, should enjoy Cantref Mawr, and any other Cantref which the king should be pleased to bestow upon him: but contrary to this article, the king assigned him several lordships and other lands far remote from each other, and particularly intermixed them with the estates of Englishmen, who he was sure would be a watch and a curb to all the motions of Prince Rhŷs. This was indeed a very politick contrivance of King Henry to keep the high and restless spirit of Rhŷs in subjection; but the justice of the transaction does not so evidently appear in thus breaking one of the chief articles of the peace, and dismembering and bestowing that which was not justly in his power to give: it is, however, manifestly apparent that the English of these times were mainly determined right or wrong to oppress and keep under the Welsh, whose mortal dislike to subjection they had so frequently and so cruelly experienced. Prince Rhŷs was not ignorant of these wrongful and deceitful dealings of King Henry, but knowing himself to be unable to redress these grievances, he thought it more advisable for a time to live in peace with a little than rashly to hazard all. In a short time, however, he had opportunity either of demanding redress from the king or of endeavouring to obtain it himself by force of arms: for as soon as Roger Earl of Clare was informed of the distribution which the king of England had granted to Prince Rhŷs, he came to King Henry, requesting his majesty to grant him such lands in Wales as he could win by force of arms. The king readily complied with his request, being always willing to grant any thing which tended to curb and incommode the Welsh; and therefore the Earl of Clare marched with a great army into Cardigan, and having fortified the castles of Ystrad-Meyric, Humphrey, Dyfi, Dynerth, and Lhanrhystyd, he made several incursions into the country. In the same manner, Walter Clifford, who was governor of Lhanymdhyfri castle, made inroads into the territories of Prince Rhŷs, and after he had slain several of the Welsh, and made great waste in the country, returned with considerable booty.

Prince Rhŷs, as he was unable to bear these outrages, was resolved either to have immediate redress or else to proclaim open war against the English; and therefore he

sent

sent an express to King Henry, complaining of the hostilities which his subjects (the Earl of Clare and Walter Clifford) had committed in his country; but finding that the king put him still off with only smooth words and fair promises, and that he always winked at the faults of the English and Normans, he, without any farther consultation about the matter, laid siege to the castle of Lhanymdhyfri, and in a short time made himself master of it. Also Eineon, the son of Anarawd, Rhŷs's brother's son, and a person of great valour, being desirous to free his country from the miserable servitude they now groaned under, and judging withal that his uncle was now discharged from the oath he had lately sworn to the king of England, attacked the castle of Humphrey, and having forcibly made his entrance into it, he put all the garrison to the sword, where he found a great number of horses, and armour wherewith to equip a considerable body of men. Whilst Eineon was thus engaged at Humphrey's castle, Prince Rhŷs, perceiving that he could not enjoy any part of his inheritance but what he obtained by the sword, drew all his power together and entered Cardigan, where, like a violent torrent, he over-ran the country, so that he left not one castle standing of those which his enemies had fortified, and thus brought all the country to his subjection. King Henry being much offended at the progress which Prince Rhŷs so suddenly made against him, returned with a great army into South Wales, but finding it to no purpose to attempt any thing against the Prince, he thought it more advisable to permit him to retain all that he had won, and only to take hostages* for his keeping peace during his absence out of the kingdom, which Prince Rhŷs promising to do, he forthwith returned to England, and soon after went to Normandy, where he concluded a peace with the French king.

The year following, Prince Rhŷs of South Wales, without any regard to his promise made to King Henry the preceding year, led his forces to Dyfed, destroyed all the castles that the Normans had fortified in that country, and then laid siege to Caermardhyn; but Reynold Earl of Bristol, the king's illegitimate son, being informed of it, called together the Earl of Clare, his brother-in-law Cadwalader, Prince Owen of North Wales's brother, Howel and Conan (Owen's sons), with two Earls more, who with their joint forces marched to raise the siege. Prince Rhŷs was too prudent to abide their coming, and therefore, upon the A. D. 1158.

* He was obliged to deliver up his two sons as pledges for his future obedience.—Lord Lyttelton's Henry II. vol. ii. p. 79.

the first intimation of such an opposition, he retired to the mountains called Cefn Rester and there encamped, being sufficiently secure from any enemy by the natural fortification of the place. The confederate army lay at Dynwylhir, and there built a castle; but hearing no tidings of Prince Rhŷs, they returned home without effecting any thing of note.* King Henry was still in Normandy, and there made war against the Earl of St. Giles for the city and earldom of Tholouse.

A.D. 1160. Towards the beginning of this year, Madoc ap Meredith ap Blethyn, Prince of Powys, died at Winchester, whence his body was honourably conveyed to Powys and buried at Meivod.† He was a Prince very much affected to piety and religion, very charitable to the necessitous, and benevolent to the distressed; but his great fault was, that he strove too hard for the interest of the English, and was always in confederacy with King Henry against the good success of his native country. He had issue by his wife Susanna, the daughter of Gruffydh ap Conan, Prince of North Wales, three sons, Gruffydh Maylor, Owen, and Elis, and a daughter named Marred. He had also three natural sons, Owen Brogynton, Cynwric Efelh, and Eineon Efelh, who though base born, yet according to the custom of Wales, co-inherited with their brethren who were legitimate.

And here it will not be amiss to give a particular account of that portion of the principality, afterwards known as the Lordships of Powys, how it came to be divided into many shares, and by that means became so irrecoverably broken and weakened, that it was made subject to the Normans before the rest of Wales; for Powys before King Offa's time reached eastwards to the rivers Severn and Dee, in a right line from the end of Broxton hills to Salop, and comprehended all the country between the Wye and Severn, which was anciently the estate of Brochwel Yscithroc, of whom mention has been made in this work: but after the making of Offa's dike, Powys was contracted into a narrower compass, the plain country towards Salop being inhabited by Saxons and Normans, so that the length of it commencing north-east from Pulford bridge extended to Llangiric‡ parish on the confines of Cardiganshire to the south-west, and the breadth from the farthest part of Cyfeilioc westward, to Ellesmere on the east-side. This principality

* Welsh Chron. p. 210.

† Meivod in Montgomeryshire, the usual burying-place of his family.—From this period the descendants of the princes of South Wales possessed no sovereign authority.

‡ Llangerig.

principality, Roderic the Great gave to his youngest son Merfyn, in whose posterity it remained entire, till the death of Blethyn ap Confyn, who divided it betwixt his sons Meredith and Cadwgan; yet it came again whole and entire to the possession of Meredith ap Blethyn, but he again broke the union, and left it between his two sons Madawc and Gruffydh; the first of whom was married to Susanna, the daughter of Gruffydh ap Conan, Prince of North Wales, and had with her that part, afterwards called by his name—Powys Fadoc. After his death this lordship was divided also betwixt his sons Gruffydh Maelor, Owen ap Madawc, and Owen Brogynton, which last, though base born, had, for his incomparable valour and courage, a share of his father's estate, namely, Edeyrneon and Dinmael, which he left to his sons Gruffydh, Blethyn, and Iorwerth. Owen ap Madawc had to his portion Mechain-is-Coed, and had issue Lhewelyn and Owen Fychan. Gruffydh Maelor, the eldest son, Lord of Bromfield, had to his part, both the Maelors with Mochnant-is-Raydar, and married Angharad, the daughter of Owen Gwynedh, Prince of North Wales, by whom he had issue one son named Madawc, who held his father's inheritance entirely, and left it so to his only son Gruffydh, who was called Lord of Dinas Brân, because he lived in that castle: he married Emma, the daughter of James Lord Audley, by whom he had issue Madawc, Lhewelyn, Gruffydh, and Owen. This Gruffydh ap Madawc took part with King Henry the Third and Edward the First against the Prince of North Wales; and, therefore, for fear of the said prince, he was forced to keep himself secure within his castle of Dinas Brân, which being situated upon the summit of a very steep hill, seemed impregnable to all efforts that could be used against it. After his death, Edward the First dealt very unkindly with his children, who were of age to manage their own concerns; and it has been said that he caused two of them to be privately made away. He bestowed the wardship of Madoc, the eldest son, who had by his father's will the Lordships of Bromfield and Yale, with the reversion of Maelor Saesnec, Hopesdale, and Mouldsdale, his mother's jointure, on John Earl Warren; and the wardship of Lhewelyn, to whose share fell the Lordships of Chirke and Nanheudwy, he gave to Roger Mortimer, third son to Roger Mortimer the son of Ralph Mortimer, Lord Mortimer of Wigmor: but Emma, Gruffydh's wife, having in her possession, for her dowry, Maelor Saesnec, Hopesdale, and Mouldsdale, with the presentation of Bangor rectory, and

and seeing two of her sons disinherited and put away, and the fourth dead without issue, and doubting lest Gruffydh her only surviving child should not long continue, she conveyed her estate to the Audleys, her own kindred, who getting possession of it, took the same from the king, and from them it came to the house of Derby, where it continued for a long time; till at length it was sold to Sir John Glynne, serjeant-at-law, in whose family it still remaineth. Earl Warren and Roger Mortimer forgetting what signal service Gruffydh ap Madoc had performed for the king, guarded their new possessions with such caution and strictness, that they took especial care they should never return to any of the posterity of the legal proprietor; and, therefore, having obtained the king's patent, they began to secure themselves in the said lordships. John Earl Warren commenced building Holt castle, which was finished by his son William, and so the Lordships of Bromfield and Yale continued in the name of the Earls of Warren for three descents, viz. John, William, and John, who dying without issue, the said lordships, together with the Earldom of Warren, descended to Alice, sister and heir to the last John Earl Warren, who was married to Edmond Fitz Alan, Earl of Arundel, in whose house they further remained for three descents, namely, Edmund, Richard, Richard his son, and Thomas Earl of Arundel; but for want of issue to this last, Thomas Earl of Arundel and Warren, the said lordships fell to two of his sisters, whereof one named Elizabeth, was married to Thomas Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, and the other called Joan, to William Beauchamp, Lord of Abergavenny: and subsequently they came to the hands of Sir William Stanley, Knight, who being attainted of high treason, they devolved by forfeiture to the crown, and now are annexed to the principality of Wales. Roger Mortimer, the other sharer in the lands of Gruffydh ap Madoc, was made Justice of North Wales, built the castle of Chirk, and married Lucia, the daughter and heir of Sir Robert de Wafre, Knight, by whom he had issue Roger Mortimer, who was married to Joan Tubervill, by whom he had John Mortimer, Lord of Chirk. This John sold the Lordship of Chirk to Richard Fitz Alan, Earl of Arundel, Edmund's son, and so it was again annexed to Bromfield and Yale.

The third son of Gruffydh Lord of Dinas Brân, named also Gruffydh, had for his part Glyndwrdwy, which Gruffydh ap Gruffydh had issue Madoc Crupl, who was the father of Madoc Fychan, the father of Gruffydh, the father

of

of Gruffydh Fychan, who was the father of Owen Glyndwr, who rebelling in the days of Henry the Fourth, Glyndwrdwy by confiscation came to the King, of whom it was afterwards purchased by Robert Salisbury of Rûg, to whose descendants it still remaineth, having passed, through heirs female, into the family of Vaughan of Nannau. Owen, the fourth son of Gruffydh Lord of Dinas Brân, had for his share Cynllaeth, with the rights and privileges thereunto belonging. The other part of Powys, comprehending the countries of Arustly, Cyfeilioc, Llannerch-hudol, Caereineon, Mochnant-uwch-Rhayadr, Mechain-uwch-Coed, Moudhwy, Deudhwr, Ystrad Marchelch, and Têir-Trêf or the Three Towns, rightfully descended to Gruffydh ap Meredith ap Blethyn, by Henry the First created Lord Powys, who married Gweyrvyl or Weyrvyl the daughter of Urgene ap Howel ap Iefaf ap Cadogan ap Athelstan Glodryth, by whom he had issue Owen surnamed Cyfeilioc. This Owen enjoyed his father's estate entire, and married Gwenllian the daughter of Owen Gwynedh Prince of North Wales, who bore him one son, named Gwenwynwyn or Wenwynwyn, from whom that part of Powys was afterwards called Powys Wenwynwyn. He had also an illegitimate brother called Caswallon, upon whom was bestowed the lands of Swydh Llannerch-hudol, and Broniarth. Gwenwynwyn succeeded his father in all his estate, excepting the portion given to Caswallon, and married Margaret the daughter of Rhŷs ap Theodore Prince of South Wales, by whom he had Gruffydh ap Gwenwynwyn, who succeeding his father in all his possessions, had issue six sons, by Margaret the daughter of Robert Corbet, brother to Thomas Lord Corbet of Cause; and so the entire estate of Gruffydh ap Meredith ap Blethyn Lord of Powys became scattered, and shred into various portions. Owen, Gruffydh ap Gwenwynwyn's eldest son, had for his part Arustly, Cyfeilioc, Llannerch-hudol, and a part of Caereineon; Llewelyn had Mochnant-uwch-Rhayadr and Mechain-uwch-Coed; John, the third son, had the fourth part of Caereineon; William had Moudhwy; Gruffydh Fychan had Deudhwr, Ystrat-Marchelh, and Teir Tref; and David, the sixth and youngest son, had the other fourth part of Caereineon. Owen ap Gruffydh had issue only one daughter, named Hawys Gadarn, or the Hardy, whom he left his heir; but her uncles Llewelyn, John, Gruffydh Fychan, and David, thinking it an easy matter to dispossess an orphan, claimed the lands of their brother Owen, alleging as the ground of their usurpation, that a woman was not capable of holding

any

any lands in that country; but Hawys had friends in England, and her case was made known to King Edward the Second, who bestowed her in marriage upon a servant of his,* named John Charleton, termed *Valectus domini regis*,† who was born at Apley near Wellington, in the county of Salop, *anno* one thousand two hundred and sixty-eight, and in her right the king created him Lord Powys.

This John Charleton,‡ Lord Powys, being aided and supported by the King of England, quickly set aside all the measures of his wife's uncles, and having taken Lhewelyn, John, and David, he put them in safe custody, in the king's castle of Harlech; and then obtained a writ from the king to the sheriff of Shropshire, and to Sir Roger Mortimer, Lord of Chirkland and justice of North Wales, for the apprehension of Gruffydh Fychan, with his sons-in-law, Sir Roger Chamber and Hugh Montgomery, who were then in actual hostility against him and his wife Hawys; but Gruffydh Fychan and his accomplices doubting their own strength, and having lost Thomas Earl of Lancaster, their main support, thought it most adviseable to submit themselves to the king's pleasure, touching the difference betwixt them and Hawys; who finding upon record that Gruffydh ap Meredith, ancestor to the said Hawys, upon his submission to King Henry the First, became subject to the King of England, and thereupon was created Baron of Powys, which barony he and his posterity had ever since held *in capite* from the king, was of opinion that Hawys had more right to her father's possessions, now in their hands, than any pretence they could lay to her estate. To make, therefore, a final determination of this matter, and to compose the difference more amicably betwixt them, it was agreed that Hawys should enjoy her inheritance in fee-simple to her and her heirs for ever, after the tenure of England; and that her uncles Lhewelyn, John, David, and Gruffydh,

* A gentleman of his chamber.

† Valectus regis: hence Valet.—Yorke, p. 78.

‡ He was, says Mr. Yorke, "the first lord of an English house, the son of Sir Alan Charleton, a man of civil and military habits, had attended his sovereign, moreover, as his chamberlain in his frequent and unfortunate northern expeditions. He followed for a time then the reforming factions of Lancaster, the refuge and receptacle of all that were distressed and discontented; was defeated and taken with them at Boroughbridge, but escaped the proscriptions which ensued; came again into favour, and suffered in the insurrection against the king, when his house was pillaged by the London mob. Our old books speak of him in high esteem for his fidelity, prudence, and valour, nor amidst his greater employments had he neglected the interests and accommodation of his countrymen; and he obtained from Edward the Second two weekly markets at Pool and Machynlleth, and two fairs in the year at each place. He died in 1353, at the age of 85 years. His wife, the Powys heiress, died some time before, and was buried in the dissolved house of the Grey Friars of her own foundation in Shrewsbury."—Yorke's Royal Tribes, p. 79.

Gruffydh, should quietly enjoy their portion, and the same to descend to their heirs male perpetually; but in default of such heirs male, the same was to descend to Hawys and her heirs: but William Lord of Moudhwy, the fourth brother, called otherwise Wilcock Moudhwy, because he did not join with the rest against Hawys, had all his lands confirmed to him, and to his heirs male and female for ever. He married Elianor, the sister of Ellen, Owen Glyndwr's mother, who was lineally descended from Rhŷs ap Theodore, Prince of South Wales, by whom he had issue John de Moudhwy; whose daughter Elizabeth, being heir to his whole estate, was married to Sir Hugh Burgh, knight. His son, Sir John Burgh, Lord of Moudhwy, married Jane the daughter of Sir William Clopton of Gloucestershire, by whom he had four daughters, Elizabeth, Ancreda, Isabel, and Elianor; the first of whom was married to Thomas Newport; the second to John Leighton of Stretton; the third to John Lingen; and the younger to Thomas Mytton; who, by equal distribution, had the lordship of Moudhwy and other estates of the Burghs divided betwixt them.

John Charleton Lord of Powys had issue by his wife Hawys a son named John,* who enjoyed the same lordship for about seven years, and then left it to his son, of the same name, who was Lord of Powys fourteen years; and then it descended to his son, called also John Charleton, who enjoyed his father's estate twenty-seven years; but dying without issue, the lordship of Powys fell to his brother Edward Charleton. This Edward had issue by his wife Elianor, the daughter and one of the heirs of Thomas Earl of Kent, and the widow of Roger Mortimer Earl of March, two daughters, Jane and Joyce; the first of which was married to Sir John Grey, knight; and the second to John Lord Tiptoft, whose son was by King Henry VI. created Earl of Worcester. After the death of Elianor, this Edward Lord Powys married Elizabeth the daughter of Sir John Berkeley, knight; and so after his death, which happened in the year 1420, the lordship of Powys was divided into three parts, whereof his widow Elizabeth had for her jointure Lhannerch-hudol, Ystrad Marchelh, Deudhwr, and Teir Tref, and was afterwards married to Lord Dudley; Jane, his eldest daughter, had Caereineon, Mechain, Mochnant, and Plasdinas; and Joyce had Cyfeilioc and Arustly; but the lordship of Powys continued in the family of Sir John

* He was summoned to parliament from the 28th to the 47th of Edward the Third, was Chamberlain of the Household to this king, as his father had been to his predecessor, and attended him in that useless and expensive expedition to France in 1339, as he did his son the Black Prince in the same kingdom and to the same effect in 1375.

John Grey for five descents, in right of his wife Jane; the last of whom, Edward Grey, Lord Powys, married Anne, one of the daughters and co-heirs of Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, and died without any lawful issue. This Edward Lord Powys, in 15 Henry VIII. accompanied the Duke of Suffolk in the expedition then made into France, and was at the taking of Bray, and other places then won from the French. And in 36 Henry VIII. being again ready to march in the King's service, he made his last testament, whereby he settled the succession of his whole barony and lordship of Powys, his castle and manor of Pool, with divers other lordships in the county of Montgomery, and all the rest of his estate in the county of Salop, upon the heirs of his own body lawfully begotten or to be begotten; and in default of such issue, his castle and manor of Charleton and Pontesbury in Shropshire, upon Jane Orwell, daughter of Sir Lewis Orwell, knight, and her assigns, during her natural life; and in case he should die without any issue of his own body lawfully begotten, that then Edward Grey, his illegitimate son by the same Jane Orwell, should have and enjoy his said barony and manor of Powys, his castle and manor of Pool, and all other his lordships in the county of Montgomery; with the reversion of the castle and manor of Charleton and Pontesbury, to him and his heirs lawfully begotten; and for lack of such issue, to remain to that child, in case it should be a son, wherewith the same Jane Orwell was then great by him, and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten: but if it should not prove a son, or if the son die without issue, then that the whole barony of Powys, and all the premises before-mentioned, should come to Jane Grey, his daughter, and to the heirs of her body lawfully begotten; and for lack of such issue, to Anne Grey, his other daughter, and the heirs of her body lawfully begotten; and lastly, for default of such issue, to such woman-child as should be born of the body of the said Jane Orwell. After the death of Edward Grey, the title of Lord of Powys lay extinct to the fifth year of King Charles I. when Sir William Herbert, son of Sir Edward Herbert, of Redcastle (anciently called Pool Castle, now Powys Castle), in the county of Montgomery, second son to William Earl of Pembroke, to whom the castle had come by purchase, was advanced to the dignity of a baron of the realm, by the title of Lord Powys of Powys, in the marches of Wales; in whose descendants it still continues, though the title has been changed from a baron to an earl, and subsequently to a marquis and a duke, afterwards to an earl, and then by a new creation to an earl again, in the person of Edward Lord Clive now Earl of Powys,

Dugdale Bar. Engl. tom. II. p. 284.

Powys, whose wife was sister and heir to the last Earl of Powys of the Herbert family.

About the same time that Madoc ap Meredith Prince of Powys died, Cadwallhon ap Madawc ap Ednerth, who had been for some considerable time at variance with his brother Eineon Clyd, was taken prisoner by him, who delivered him up to Owen Prince of North Wales; but the prince being willing to gratify the King of England, whose interest Cadwallhon had as much as in him lay opposed, sent him to the king's officers to be imprisoned at Winchester; from whence he quickly found means to escape: and by the advice of the rest of his brethren he returned home to his country. King Henry continued all this while in Normandy, and during his stay there, a match was agreed upon betwixt his son Henry and Margaret daughter to Lewis King of France: but this new alliance did not prevent these two monarchs from falling at variance with each other, which happened the year following; and thereupon King Henry marched with his army into Gascoyne, to quell certain rebels, who upon first notice of this breach between the two kings were up in arms against the English. The next year a peace was again concluded, and so all things A.D. 1161. returned to their former state of amity and quietness.

It was not so, however, in Wales; for Howel the son of Ievaf ap Cadwgan ap Athelstan Glodryth, having got into his hands the castle of Walwern in Cyfeilioc, razed it to the ground, which so incensed Prince Owen,* who was owner of it, that nothing could allay his fury, till he had drawn his forces together, and made an incursion into Lhandinam in Arustly, Howel's country; which he cruelly harassed, and carried away considerable booty. The people of the country perceiving these devastations of the North Wales men, came together to the number of three hundred men, offering their service to their natural lord, Howel ap Ievaf, who, upon this addition of strength, followed the enemy to the banks of Severn, where they were encamped. Prince Owen, finding them to march after him, was glad of the opportunity to be further revenged upon Howel; and so turning suddenly upon them, he slew about two hundred men; the rest narrowly escaping with Howel to the woods and rocks. Owen being more joyful for the revenge he had taken of Howel, than for any victory he had gained, rebuilt Walwern castle, and having well fortified and manned it, returned home to North Wales.

The year following, the like thing happened; Owen the 1162. son

* He was styled Owen Cyveilioc, and had a district called by that name, which contained nearly half of Powys.—Welsh Chron. pp. 210, 211.

son of Gruffydh ap Meredith, commonly called Owen Cyfeilioc o Wynedh, together with Owen ap Madawc ap Meredith and Meredith ap Howel, set upon Carreghofa* castle near Oswestry, and having overpowered the garrison, committed great waste and destruction therein. About the same time, a singular quarrel happened in England; Robert Mountford and Henry de Essex, who had both fought against the Welsh upon the marches and fled, began now to impeach each other as being the first occasion of flying. The dispute was to be tried by single combat, in which being engaged Henry was overcome; and for his falsely accusing Robert, he was sentenced to have his estate forfeited, and then having his crown shorn, he was entered a monk at Redding. Within a little time after, King Henry, calling to mind what Prince Rhŷs had committed during his absence from the kingdom, drew up a great army against South Wales, and having marched as far as Pencadyr, near Brecknock, Rhŷs met him and did his homage; and delivering up hostages for his future behaviour,† he stopped the king's progress, so that thence he returned to England. After the king's departure, two very unhappy affairs occurred in Wales; Eineon the son of Anarawd ap Gruffydh, nephew to Prince Rhŷs, being villainously murdered in his bed by his own servant, called Walter ap Lhywarch; as also Cadwgan ap Meredith, in like manner, by one Walter ap Riccart: but the loss of his nephew Prince Rhŷs made up, by possessing himself of that large country called Cantref Mawr, and the land of Dynefawr, which he afterwards enjoyed. Of men of learning there died this year, Cadifor ap Daniel, Archdeacon of Cardigan; and Henry ap Arthen, the greatest scholar that had flourished in Wales for many years.

A. D. 1163. The next year, a total rupture broke forth betwixt the English and Welsh; Prince Rhŷs,‡ a man of an active and uncontroulable spirit, being now aware by experience that he could not sustain the greatness of his quality, with such lands as the King of England had allotted him, made an invasion into the Lordship of Roger de Acre, Earl of Gloucester; being moved thereto, in a great measure, by reason that his nephew Anarawd ap Gruffydh was murdered at that Earl's instigation. Having advanced with a strong army into the Earl of Gloucester's estate, without any great opposition he took Aberheidol castle,§ with those belonging to the sons of Wyhyaon, which he rased to the ground

* Garreg Hova, six miles from Oswestry, in the parish of Llanymynech, which part of that parish lies in the county of Denbigh.

† Welsh Chron. p. 220. ‡ Rhŷs ap Gryffydh.

§ On the conflux of the rivers Rheidol and Ystwyth.

ground. Thence he marched to Cardigan, bringing all that country under his subjection; and from thence he marched against the Flemings, whose country he cruelly harassed with fire and sword. The rest of the estates of Wales, perceiving Prince Rhŷs to prosper so successfully against the English, thought they might equally succeed, and shake off the English yoke, by which they were unreasonably oppressed. Therefore they unanimously agreed to cast off their subjection to the English, whose tyranny they could no longer bear, and to put over them princes of their own nation, whose superiority they could better tolerate, and so this year concluded with making suitable preparations for the following campaign.

As soon as the time of year for action was advanced, David, son of Owen, Prince of North Wales, fell upon Flintshire, which pertained to the King of England; and carrying off all the people and cattle with him, brought them to Dyffryn Clwyd, otherwise Ruthyn-land.* King Henry understanding this, gathered together his forces, and with all speed marched to defend both his subjects and towns from the incursions and depredations of the Welsh. Being come to Rhuddlan or Rhuthlan and encamped there three days, he soon perceived he could effect no great measure, because his army was not sufficiently numerous; and, therefore, he thought it most advisable to return back to England, and to augment his forces, before he should attempt any thing against the Welsh:† and accordingly he levied the most chosen men throughout all his dominions of England, Normandy, Anjou, Gascoyne, and Guienne, besides obtaining aid from Flanders and Britanny, and then set forward for North Wales, purposing to destroy without mercy every living thing he could possibly meet with; and being advanced as far as Croes-Oswalt, called Oswestry, he encamped there. On the other side, Prince Owen and his brother Cadwalader, with all the strength of North Wales; Prince Rhŷs with those of South Wales; Owen Cyfeilioc and Madawc ap Meredith with all the power of Powys; the two sons of Madawc ap Ednerth, with the people living betwixt the rivers of Severn and Wye, met together, and pitched their camp at Corwen in Edeyrneon, intending unanimously to defend their country against the King of England. King Henry understanding that they were so near, was very desirous to come to battle; and to that end he removed to the banks of the river Ceiriog,‡ causing all the A. D. 1164.

* Welsh Chron. p. 221.

† Brompton Chron. sub ann. 1165. Chronica Gervasii, p. 1398. Giraldus Cambrensis Itin. lib. ii. cap. 10.

‡ A river in the county of Denbigh, which runs through a vale of that name.

the woods thereabouts to be cut down, for fear of any ambushment lurking therein, and for a more clear prospect of the enemy:* but some of the Welsh took advantage of this opportunity, and being well acquainted with the passage, without the knowledge of their officers, fell upon the king's guard, where all the pikemen were posted; and after a hot skirmish, several were slain on both sides: in the end, however, the king won the passage, and so marched on to the mountain of Berwyn, where he lay some time without any hostility on either side, both armies standing in fear of each other. The English kept the open plains, and were afraid to be entrapped in the straits and narrow passages; and the Welsh on the other hand watched the advantage of the place; and observed the English so narrowly, that neither forage or victuals could pass to the king's camp; and what augmented the misery of the English army, there happened to fall a tremendous rain, that overflowed their encampment, in so much that with the slipperiness of the hills, the soldiers could scarcely stand; eventually King Henry was forced to decamp, and after a very considerable loss of men and ammunition, besides the great charges of this expedition, was compelled to return back to England. To express how much dissatisfaction he entertained at this enterprize, he in a great fury caused to be plucked out the eyes of the hostages, that he had some time before received from the Welsh; which were Rhŷs and Cadwalhon, the sons of Owen Prince of North Wales, and Cynric and Meredith, the sons of Rhŷs of South Wales.† Some write, that in assailing a bridge, in this expedition, the king was in no small danger of his life: one of the Welsh having aimed directly at him, would have pierced him through the body, had not Hubert de Clare, Constable of Colchester, who perceived the arrow coming, thrust himself betwixt the king and it, although to the loss of his own life.‡

Though King Henry was shamefully forced to return to England, yet he did not give up the idea of subduing the Welsh; and therefore, after a long consultation, he made a third expedition into Wales, conveying his army by sea as far as Chester. There he staid for some time, till all his fleet

* Welsh Chron. p. 221.

† Holinshead's Chron. p. 73, says that, "besides those above-mentioned, he caused the sons and daughters of several lords to be treated with the same severity, ordering the eyes of the young striplings to be pecked out of their heads, and the ears of the young gentlewomen to be stuffed."

‡ Welsh Chron. p. 222.—Holinshead's Chron. p. 73, says, "This accident happened at the siege of Bridgenorth."

fleet, as well those ships that he had hired out of Ireland as his own, were arrived: but when they were all come together and got safely to Chester, his mind was altered; and instead of a design against Wales, he unexpectedly dismissed his whole army. Prince Rhŷs was glad of this opportunity, and therefore withdrawing his forces from the confederate army, he marched to the siege of Aberteifi castle, which being surrendered to him, he rased it to the ground. From thence he got before Cilgerran,* which he used after the same manner, and therein took prisoner Robert the son of Stephen, his cousin-german, who was the son of Nêst his aunt, and who after the death of Gerald had married Stephen Constable. The joy of these successes on the part of the Welsh was somewhat clouded by the death of Lhewelyn, son of Owen Prince of North Wales, a person of great worth, and exceedingly well beloved of all his countrymen.

The Welsh being now somewhat secure from any invasion from the English, there rose up another enemy to create them disturbance; the Flemings and Normans, finding the English had failed in their attempt against the Welsh, thought they might with better success invade and subdue them; and therefore they came to West Wales with a great army, and laid siege to the castle of Cilgerran, which Rhŷs had lately fortified; but after two different assaults, they were manfully beat back and forced to depart home again: however, what the Flemings could not effect against the Welsh in South Wales the Welsh easily brought about against the English in North Wales; for Prince Owen having besieged Basingwerk castle, then in the possession of the king of England, without much time spent, made himself master of it.† It was, however, always the misfortune of the Welsh, that when they found themselves secure from any enemy abroad, they were sure to quarrel and fall out at home; though indeed it could not be otherwise expected, where so many petty states endeavoured to surmount and outvie each other. Now, therefore, when all things went very successfully on their side, in opposition to the English, two ambitious persons began to kindle a flame in the bosom of their own country: Owen Cyfeilioc, the son of Gruffydh ap Meredith Lord of Powys, and Owen Fychan, second son to Madawc ap Meredith, forcibly dispossessed Iorwerth Goch of his estate in Powys, which they divided betwixt themselves,—Mochnan-uwch-Rayader to Owen Cyfeilioc, and Mochnant-is-Rayader to Owen Fychan: but the A.D. 1165.

* Situated on the banks of the river Tivi, near Caerdigan.
† Welsh Chron. p. 223.

A. D. 1166. the rest of the princes of Wales could not brook this injury done to Iorwerth Goch; and therefore Owen Prince of North Wales, with his brother Cadwalader, and Rhŷs Prince of South Wales, went with an army into Powys against Owen Cyfeilioc,* and, having chased him out of the country, they bestowed Caereineon upon Owen Fychan, to hold it of Prince Owen; and Rhŷs had Walwern, by reason that it lay near his own territories.† Within a while after, Owen Cyfeilioc returned with a numerous band of Normans and English along with him, and laid siege to the castle of Caereineon, which he burnt to the ground: but the loss of this place was made up by the taking of Rhuddlan castle, which Owen, Rhŷs, and Cadwalader jointly besieged; and which was so strongly fortified, and so manfully defended, that it cost them three months before they could
1176. make themselves masters of the place. Afterwards they won the castle of Prestatyn, and reduced the whole country of Tegengl subject to Prince Owen; and then returned home to their respective dominions. Henceforward nothing of moment was transacted during the remainder of Prince Owen's reign, only his son Conan most unmercifully slew Urgeney, Abbot of Lhwythlawr, together with his nephew
1168. Lhawthen: but a little after, Prince Rhŷs of South Wales released out of prison his nephew Robert, son to Stephen Constable, whom, as is said before, he had taken at the siege of Cilgerran castle, and sent him to Ireland to the aid of Dermot, the son of Murchart, King of Leinster, who was then in actual war with the King of Leinster. With him and his brother Morris Fitz-Gerald, and their nephews Robert, Meyler, and Raymond, went over a strong detachment of Welshmen, under the command of Richard Strongbow, Earl of Strigul, who were the chief movers of the conquest of Ireland, when it was first brought in subjection to the crown of England.

1169. But the next year, Owen Gwynedh, son of Gruffydh ap Conan, Prince of North Wales, departed this life in the thirty-second year of his reign.‡ He was a wise and valourous prince, ever fortunate and victorious in all his undertakings, insomuch that he never undertook any design but what he accomplished. He had by different women several children, who got themselves greater esteem by their valour, than by their birth and parentage. He had by Gwladus, the

* Welsh Chron. pp. 223, 224.

† Brit. Ant. Reviv. by Vaughan of Hengwrt, pp. 5, 6.

‡ He was buried in the cathedral church of Bangor; and had by different women twenty-one children.

the daughter of Llywarch ap Trahaern ap Caradoc, Iorwerth Drwyndwn, or Iorwerth with the broken nose, Conan, Maelgon, and Gwenllhian; by Christian the daughter of Grono ap Owen ap Edwyn, he had David, Roderic,* Cadwallon abbot of Bardsey, and Angharad afterwards married to Gruffydd Maylor. He had by other women several other children, as Conan, Llewelyn, Meredith, Edwal, Rhun, Howel, Cadelh, Madawc, Eineon, Cynwric, Philip, and Ryrid Lord of Clochran in Ireland. Of these, Rhun, Llewelyn, and Cynwric died before their father; and the rest will be mentioned in the sequel of this history.†

DAVID AP OWEN.

PRINCE Owen Gwynedh being dead, the succession should of right have descended to his eldest legitimate son, Iorwerth Drwyndwn, otherwise called Edward with the broken nose; but by reason of that blemish upon his face, he was laid aside as unfit to take upon him the government of North Wales.‡ Therefore his younger brothers began every one to aspire, in hopes of succeeding their father; but A. D. 1170. Howel, who was of all the eldest, but base born, begotten of an Irish woman, finding they could not agree, stept in himself and took upon him the government. David, however, who was legitimately born, could not brook that a bastard should ascend his father's throne; and therefore he made all the preparations possible to remove him. Howel on the other hand was determined to maintain his ground, and was not willing thus to deliver up what he so recently got possession of; and so both brothers meeting together in the field, were resolved to try their title by the point of the sword. The battle had not lasted long before Howel was slain; and then David was unanimously proclaimed and acknowledged Prince of North Wales,§ which principality he enjoyed without any molestation, till Llewelyn, Iorwerth Drwyndwn's son, came of age, as will hereafter appear. It is said that Madawc, another of Owen Gwynedh's sons, perceiving these contentions among his brothers

* Lord of Anglesey. † History of Gwedir family, p. 3.

‡ He had however assigned him, for his maintenance, a part of his father's inheritance: the cantrevs of Nanconwy and Ardudwy; and resided at the castle of Dolwyddelan, situate in the county of Carnarvon.—History of Gwedir family, p. 7.—This prince was afterwards obliged to take sanctuary at Pennant Melangel in Montgomeryshire, where he died.

§ Welsh Chron. p. 227.—Memoir of Gwedir family, p. 7.

brothers for the principality, and that his native country was likely to be embroiled in a civil war, deemed it more prudent to try his fortune abroad; and therefore departing from North Wales when it was in this unsettled condition, he sailed with a small fleet of ships, which he had rigged and manned for that purpose, to the westward; and leaving Ireland on the north, he came at length to an unknown country, where most things appeared to him new and uncommon, and the manner of the natives far different to what he had seen in Europe. This country, says the learned H. Lhuyd, must of necessity be some part of that vast tract of ground of which the Spaniards, since Hanno's time, boast themselves to be the first discoverers; and which, by order of cosmography, seems to be some part of Nova Hispania or Florida; whereby it is manifest that this country was discovered by the Britons, long before either Columbus or Americus Vesputius sailed thither: but concerning Madawc's voyage to this country, and afterwards his return from thence, there be many fabulous stories and idle tales invented by the vulgar, who are sure never to diminish from what they hear, but generally add to any fable as far as their invention will prompt them. However, says the same author, it is certain that Madawc arrived in this country, and after he had viewed the fertility and pleasantness of it, he thought it expedient to invite more of his countrymen out of Britain; and therefore leaving most of those he had already taken with him behind, he returned for Wales. Being arrived there, he informed his friends what a fair and extensive land he had met with, void of any inhabitants, whilst they employed all their skill to supplant one another, only for a rugged portion of rocks and mountains; and therefore he persuaded them to change their present state of danger and continual bickering for a place where they should have ease and enjoyment: and having thus got a considerable number of the Welsh together, he bade a final adieu to his native country, and sailed with ten ships back to those he had left behind. It is therefore to be supposed, says our author, that Madawc and his people inhabited part of that country, since called Florida, by reason that it appears from Francis Loves, an author of no small reputation, that in Acusanus and other places, the people honoured and worshipped the cross; whence it may be naturally concluded that christians had been there before the coming of the Spaniards; and who these christians might be, unless it were this colony said to be planted by Madawc, cannot be easily imagined: but by reason that the Welsh who went

over

over were few in number, they intermixed in a few years with the natives of the country, and so following their manners and using their language, they became at length undistinguishable from the barbarians. The country which Madawc landed in, is, by the learned Dr. Powel, supposed to be part of Mexico: for which conjecture he lays down these following reasons:—first, because it is recorded in the Spanish chronicles of the conquest of the West Indies, that the inhabitants and natives of that country affirm by tradition that their rulers descended from a strange nation, which came thither from a strange country, as it was confessed by King Montezuma, in a speech at his submission to the King of Castile, before Hernando Cortez, the Spanish general: and further because the British words and names of places used in that country, even at this day, undoubtedly denote the same; for when they speak and converse together, they use this British word Gwrando, which signifies to hearken or listen; and a certain bird with a white head, they call Pengwyn, which signifies the same in Welsh: but for a more complete confirmation of this, the island of Coorooso, the cape of Bryton, the river of Gwyndor, and the white rock of Pengwyn, which are all British words, do manifestly shew that it was that country which Madawc and his people inhabited.*

As soon as the troubles of North Wales were over, and Prince

* An additional proof is, the purport of a Letter to Dr. Jones, of Hammersmith, from his brother in America:—"In the year 1797, a Welsh tradesman on the river Monangahala, near Petersburgh, went down to the Ohio, and from thence up the Mississipi to within 60 miles of the Missouri, to a town called Mazores. In the month of April, as he chanced to be out among some Indians, he overheard two conversing about some skins they had to sell or exchange, and from a word or two conceived their language to be Welsh; he listened for a few minutes and became convinced, though much corrupted from its primitive purity. Notwithstanding, he resolved to endeavour to converse with them, and, to his great astonishment, found themselves mutually understood, with the exception of some words either original or obsolete in Wales. He describes them to be of a robust stature, and dressed from head to foot in the skins of some animals, but no kind of shirts; their complexion was of a copper colour similar to other Indians, with strong black hair, but no beard except about the mouth. By them he understood they came from a long way up the Missouri, and had been about three months coming to the place where he found them. In consequence of the proceeding, John Evans, a young man well acquainted with the language, has been in quest of the Welsh Indians, but without success, not having penetrated more than 900 miles up the Missouri, being compelled to return in consequence of a war among the natives. It is conjectured that our Cambro-Indians inhabit a territory nearly 1800 or 2000 miles up that river. A second trial was meditated, but before it was executed John Evans died, consequently no new discovery has been attempted."

In the Gentleman's Magazine of October, 1828, published by Nichols and Son, 25, Parliament Street, London, we find the following account:—"A tribe of Americans, about the 40th degree of north latitude, and the 45th west longitude, are said to posses many curious manuscripts about an island named *Brydon*, from which their ancestors long since came. Their language resembles the Welsh, and their religion is a sort of mixed Christianity and Druidism. They know the use of letters, and are very fond of

A.D. 1171. Prince David was securely settled in his throne, a storm fell upon Powys: for Owen Cyfeilioc, the lord of the country, had always, as much as in him lay, opposed the interest and advantage of Rhŷs Prince of South Wales; upon which account Prince Rhŷs came with a great army against Powys, and having subdued Owen Cyfeilioc his enemy, he was yet so favourable to him, that upon his delivering him pledges for his future behaviour, he immediately departed out of Powys, and returned with much honour to South Wales. The states of Britain being now all at perfect rest and amity with each other, the scene of action removed to Ireland; for Henry King of England having called together all his nobility, consulted with them about the Irish expedition, which had already been determined upon. To this consultation there came some messengers from Richard Strongbow Earl of Strigule, Marshal of England, to deliver up to the king's hands the city of Dublin, the town of Waterford, with all such towns and castles as he got in right of his wife; whereupon the king restored to him all his lands both in England and Normandy, and created him Lord Steward of Ireland, for this Earl of Strigule had very lately, without obtaining the king's permission, gone over to Ireland, and had married the daughter of Dermott King of Dublin; at which King Henry was so indignant, that he immediately seized upon all his lands in England and Normandy. Therefore the king having now some footing in Ireland, the expedition was unanimously concurred in; and the king having commenced his journey, was, on coming towards Wales, received by Prince Rhŷs, at whose submission the king was so much pleased, that he confirmed to him all his lands in South Wales. In return for the king's favour, Rhŷs promised to his majesty three hundred horses and four thousand oxen towards the conquest of Ireland; for the sure payment of which he delivered fourteen pledges.

Then King Henry, marching forward, came to Caerlheon upon Usk, and entering the town, dispossessed the right owner, Iorwerth ap Owen ap Caradoc, and kept it for his own use, placing a garrison of his own men therein: but Iorwerth was not so submissive as to endure tamely this injustice of the king; and therefore departing in great fury from the king's presence, he called to him his two sons Owen and Howel (whom he had by Angharad the daughter of Uchtryd bishop of Llandaff), and his sister's son Morgan ap

music and poetry. They still call themselves Brydones. It is generally believed that they are descendants of some wandering Britons, expelled from home about the time of the Saxons, and carried by wind and current to the great continent of the west, into the heart of which they have been driven back by successive encroachments of modern settlers."—P. 359.

ap Sitsylt ap Dyfnwal, and bringing together all the forces they were able, upon the king's departure they entered the country, and committing all kinds of waste and destruction as they proceeded, they at last came before Caerlheon, which town they took and despoiled in the like manner, destroying whatever they could meet with; so that nothing escaped their fury, excepting the castle, which they could not obtain. The king was in the mean time upon his journey to Pembroke, where being accompanied by Prince Rhŷs, he gave him a grant of all Cardigan, Ystratywy, Arustly, and Elvil, in recompence of the civilities and honour that he had done to him; and so Rhŷs returned to Aberteifi, a town he had lately won from the Earl of Gloucester, and there having prepared his present, about the beginning of October he returned again to Pembroke, having ordered eighty-six horses to follow him; which being presented to the king, he accepted of thirty-six of the choicest, and returned the rest with great thanks. The same day King Henry went to St. David's, and after he had offered to the memory of that saint, he dined with the bishop, who was the son of Gerald, cousin-german to Rhŷs; and to this place Richard Strongbow Earl of Strygule came from Ireland to confer with the king. Within a while after, King Henry being entertained by Rhŷs at the White House, restored to him his son Howel, who had been for a considerable time detained as a pledge, and appointed him a certain day for payment of tribute, at which time all the rest of the pledges should be set at liberty.* The day following, being the next after the feast of St. Luke, the king went on board, and the wind blowing very favourably, set sail for Ireland, and being safely arrived upon those coasts, he landed at Dublin; where he rested for that whole winter, in order to make greater preparations against the following campaign.

The change of the air and the nature of the climate, however, occasioned such a distemper and infection among the soldiers, that to prevent the loss of his whole army, the king A. D. 1172.
was forced to return with all speed to England; and having shipped off all his army and effects, he loosed anchor, and landed in Wales in the Passion-week next year, and coming to Pembroke, he staid there on Easter-day, and then proceeded upon his journey towards England. Rhŷs, hearing of the king's return, was very solicitous to pay him his devotion, and to be one of the first who should welcome him over; and, meeting with him at Talacharn,† he performed all the

* Welsh Chron. pp. 230, 231.

† Talacharn, or Tal y carn.

the ceremonies of duty and allegiance.* Then the king passed on, and as he came from Caerdyf, by the new castle upon Usk, meaning to leave Wales in a peaceable condition, he sent for Iorwerth ap Owen ap Caradoc, who was the only person in open enmity against him (and that upon very just ground), requiring him to come and treat about a peace, and assuring him of a safe conduct for himself, his sons, and all the rest of his associates. Iorwerth was willing to accept of the proposal, and thereupon set forward to meet the king, having sent an express to his son Owen, a valourous young gentleman, to meet him by the way. Owen, according to his father's orders, set forward on his journey, with a small retinue, without any kind of arms or weapons of war, as thinking it needless to burden himself with such carriage, when the king had promised him a safe conduct: but he did not find it so safe; for as he passed the new castle upon Uske,† the Earl of Bristol's men, who were garrisoned therein, laid in wait for him as he came along, and setting upon him in a cowardly manner, they slew him with most of his company. Some few, however, escaped to acquaint his father Iorwerth of this treacherous action, who hearing that his son was so basely murdered, contrary to the king's absolute promise of a safe passage, without any farther consultation about the matter, presently returned home with Howel his son, and all his friends, and would not put trust or confidence in any thing that the King of England or any of his subjects promised to do: but, on the contrary, to avenge the death of his son, who was so cowardly cut off, he immediately raised all the forces that himself and the rest of his friends were able to do, and entering into England, he destroyed with fire and sword all the country, to the gates of Hereford and Gloucester.‡ The king was so intent upon his journey, that he seemed to take no great notice of what Iorwerth was doing; and, therefore, having by commission constituted Lord Rhŷs Chief Justice of all South Wales, he forthwith took his journey to Normandy.§ About this time died Cadwalader ap Gruffydh, the son of Gruffydh ap Conan, sometime Prince of North Wales, who by his wife Alice, the daughter of Richard Clare Earl of Gloucester, had issue, Cunetha, Radulph, and Richard; and by other women, Cadfan, Cadwalader, Eineon, Meredith Goch, and Cadwalhon. Towards the end of this year Sitsylht ap Dyfnwal, and Iefan ap Sitsylht ap Riryd, surprised the castle

* Welsh Chron. p. 232.

† The present Newport, in Monmouthshire.

‡ Welsh Chron. p. 232.

§ British Antiquities Revived, by Vaughan of Hengwrt, p. 23.

castle of Abergavenny, which belonged to the King of England, and having made themselves masters of it, they took the whole garrison prisoners.*

The following year, there happened a very great quarrel betwixt King Henry and his son of the same name; this latter being upholden by the queen (his mother), his brothers Geoffrey and Richard, the French King, the Earl of Flanders, together with the Ear. of Chester, William Patrick, and several other valiant knights and gentlemen: but the old king having a stout and faithful army, consisting of Almanes and Brabanters, was not in the least dismayed at such a seeming storm; and what made him more bold and adventurous, he was joined by a strong party of Welshmen, which Lord Rhŷs had sent him, under the command of his son Howel. King Henry overthrew his enemies in divers encounters, and having either killed or taken prisoners most of those that had risen up against him, he easily dissipated the cloud which at first seemed so black and threatening. Iorwerth ap Owen was not sorry to see the English falling into dissentions among themselves; and, therefore, taking advantage of such a seasonable opportunity, he drew his army against Caerlheon, which held out very obstinately against him. After many warm encounters Iorwerth at length prevailed, and entering the town by force, he took most of the inhabitants prisoners; and then laying siege to the castle, it was surrendered in exchange for the prisoners he had taken in the town. Howel his son at the same time was busy in Gwent-is-Coed;† and having reduced all that country, excepting the castle, to subjection, he took pledges of the inhabitants to be true and faithful to him, and to withdraw their allegiance from the King of England. At the same time, something of importance passed in North Wales; for David ap Owen Gwynedh, Prince of North Wales, bringing an army over the river Menai into Anglesey, against his brother Maelgon, who kept that island from him, he forced the latter to make his escape to Ireland; on his return from whence, the following year, he was accidentally discovered and seized, and then by his brother's orders committed to close prison. Prince David having brought the isle of Anglesey to its former state of subjection to him, determined to remove all obstacles that appeared likely to endanger its falling off from him; and these he judged to be his own nearest relations, and therefore he expelled and banished all his brethren and cousins out of his territories of North Wales: but before this sentence

A. D. 1173.

1174.

* Welsh Chron. p. 234. † In Monmouthshire.

sentence was put in execution, his brother Conan died, and so escaped the ignominy of being banished his native country for no other reason but the jealousy of an ambitious brother.

About the same time, Howel the son of Iorwerth ap Owen of Caerlheon, took prisoner his uncle Owen Pencarn, who was right heir of Caerlheon and Gwent; and thus having secured him, in order to prevent his getting any children to inherit those places which himself was next heir to, he first directed his eyes to be pulled out, and then that he should be castrated: but vengeance did not permit such a base action to go unpunished; for upon the Saturday following, a great army of Normans and Englishmen came unexpectedly before the town, and took both it and the castle, notwithstanding all the opposition which Howel and his father Iorwerth made; though this last was not privy to his son's cruel action. About the same time King Henry came over to England, and a little after his arrival, William King of Scots, and Roger de Moubray, were taken prisoners at Alnewike by the Barons of the north, as they came to destroy the northern part of the country in the name of the young King. But old King Henry having committed them to the safe custody of the Earl of Leicester, and pardoned Hugh Bygod Earl of Chester, who had submitted to him, he returned to Normandy with a very considerable army of Welshmen, which David Prince of North Wales had sent him; in return for which, he gave him his sister Emma in marriage.* When he was arrived in Normandy, he sent a detachment of the Welsh to cut off some provisions that were on their way to the enemy's camp; but in the mean time the French King came to a treaty of peace, which was shortly afterwards concluded upon; so that all the brethren who had during this time maintained such an unnatural rebellion against their father, were forced to ask the old king's forgiveness and pardon for all their former misdemeanours. David Prince of North Wales began to grow very bold and assuming, in consequence of his new alliance with the King of England; and nothing would serve him, but he must put his brother Roderic in prison, and secure him with fetters, for no other reason than because he demanded his share of his father's lands. It was the custom of Wales, as is before stated, to make an equal division of the father's inheritance between all the children; and, therefore, David had no colour of reason or pretence to deal so severely with his brother, unless it were to verify the proverb—*Might overcomes right.* Though Prince David could

* By this princess David had a son named Owen.—See Hist. of Gwedir Family, p. 12.

could depend much upon his affinity with the King of England; yet Rhŷs Prince of South Wales gained his favour and countenance still more, because he let slip no opportunity to further the king's interest and affairs in Wales, and by that means was a very necessary and useful instrument in keeping under the Welsh, and in promoting the surer settlement of the English in the country—not that he bore any affection to either King Henry or his subjects, but because he was sufficiently rewarded for former services, and was still in expectation of receiving more favours at the king's hands; and he was resolved to play the politician so far, as to have more regard to his own interest than to the good of his native country. What ingratiated him with King Henry most of all was this: upon the feast of St. James he brought all such lords of South Wales as were at enmity with the king, to do him homage at Gloucester; namely, Cadwalhon ap Madawc of Melyenyth, his cousin-german; Eineon Clyt of Elvel, and Eineon ap Rhŷs of Gwerthrynion, his sons-in-law; Morgan ap Caradoc ap Iestyn of Glamorgan; Gruffydh ap Ifor ap Meiric of Sengennyth, and Sitsylht ap Dyfnwal of Higher Gwent, all three his brothers-in-law (having married his sisters); together with Iorwerth ap Owen of Caerlheon. King Henry was so much pleased with this act of Rhŷs, that notwithstanding these persons had been his implacable enemies, he readily granted them their pardon, and received them to favour; and restored to Iorwerth ap Owen the town and castle of Caerlheon, which he had unjustly taken from him.

This reconciliation betwixt King Henry and these Welsh lords some of the English in Wales took advantage of, and more particularly William de Bruce Lord of Brecknock, who for a long time had had a great desire to obtain Gwentland, but could not bring about his design, because Sitsylht ap Dyfnwal, the person of greatest sway and power in the country, was an inveterate enemy to all the English: but he being now reconciled to the King, William de Bruce, under pretence of congratulating him on this new peace and agreement between the English and Welsh, invited Sitsylht and Geoffry his son, with several others of the persons of chief note in Gwentland, to a feast in his castle of Abergavenny, which by composition he had lately received from them. Sitsylht, with the rest, came according to appointment, and without the least suspicion of any treasonable design: but after they had been civilly entertained for some time, William de Bruce, to move a quarrel against them, began at last to propound certain articles to them, to be by them A.D. 1175.

them kept and performed; and among other unreasonable conditions, they were to swear that none of them should at any time carry with them bow or sword. The Welsh refusing to consent to and sign such improper articles as these, William de Bruce presently called out his men, who were ready for that purpose, and bidding them fall to their business, they most treacherously fell upon and slew the innocent and unarmed Welsh:* and as if this act did not sufficiently express Bruce's cruelty and inhumanity, his men immediately went to Sitsylht's house, which stood not far from Abergavenny, and taking hold of Gwladus his wife, they slew her son Cadwalader before her face, and then setting fire to the house, they took her away to the castle.† This execrable murder being thus most barbarously and (which was worst of all) under pretence of kindness committed, William de Bruce, to cloak his treason with some reasonable excuse, and to make the world believe it was not for any private interest or expectation he had done such an act as he knew would be by all men abhorred, caused it to be reported that he had done it in revenge of the death of his uncle Henry of Hereford, whom the Welsh on the Easter-Even before had slain. Whilst these things passed in South Wales, Roderic, brother to David Prince of North Wales, made his escape out of prison, and fleeing to Anglesey, he was received and acknowledged by all the country on that side the river Conway for their lord and prince; which they were the more willing to do because they had conceived an utter abhorrence of Prince David, who, contrary to all rules of equity, and almost nature, had disinherited the whole of his brethren and cousins, relying upon his affinity and relation to the king of England. David, perceiving the storm to grow very violent, and that the inhabitants of the country flocked in numbers and adhered to his brother Cadwalader, thought it best to wait awhile till the storm was abated, and so retired over the river Conway.§ Towards the end of this year, Cadelh, the son of Gruffydh ap Rhŷs and brother to Lord Rhŷs, after a tedious fit of sickness, having taken upon him the Monkish order, departed this life, and his body was very honourably interred at Stratflur.

A. D. 1176. In the spring of the following year died also David Fitz-Gerald, Bishop of Menevia or St. David, whose see was supplied by one Piers, being nominated thereunto by the king of England: but what happened most remarkable this

* Matthew Paris, p. 110. † Welsh Chron. pp. 236, 237.
§ Welsh Chron. pp. 236, 237.

this year was, that the Lord Rhŷs, Prince of South Wales, made a very great feast at Christmas in his castle of Aberteifi, which he caused to be proclaimed through all Britain, Ireland, and the islands adjacent, a considerable time before; and according to their invitation, many hundreds of English, Normans, and others coming to Aberteifi, were very honourably received and courteously entertained by Prince Rhŷs. Among other tokens of their welcome and entertainment, Rhŷs caused all the bards or poets throughout Wales to come thither; and for a better diversion to the company, he provided chairs to be set in the hall, in which the bards being seated, they were to answer each other in rhyme, and those that acquitted themselves most handsomely and outvied the rest were promised great rewards and rich presents. In this poetical competition, the North Wales bards obtained the victory, with the applause and approbation of the whole company; and among the professors of musick, between whom there was no small strife, Prince Rhŷs's own A.D. 1177. servants were accounted the most expert. Notwithstanding this civil and obliging treatment of Prince Rhŷs, the Normans upon the marches resorted to their accustomed manner of treacherously way-laying and privately assaulting the harmless and undesigning Welsh; and in consequence, Eineon Clyt, son-in-law of Rhŷs, and Morgan ap Meredith, falling into the net which the Normans had deceitfully laid for them, were treacherously murdered: therefore, to keep the Normans under greater awe for the future, Prince Rhŷs built a castle at Rhayadr Gwy, being a place where the river Wye falls with much noise and precipitation down a great rock. This castle promised to be required to stand 1178. him in a double stead; for soon after he had finished it, the sons of Conan ap Owen Gwynedh made war against him, but finding upon trial that their design against Rhŷs was impracticable, they thought it most advisable to retire back to North Wales.

The next year, Cadwalader, brother to Owen Gwynedh, 1179. and uncle to David and Roderic, who for fear of his brother had some time ago fled for refuge to the king of England, as he was being conveyed home by some of the king's servants, to enjoy his patrimonial estates in Wales, was by those barbarous and treacherous villains murdered on his journey.* This year the sepulchre of the famous and noble British King Arthur, with his wife Gwenhofar (by the means of some

* All the persons concerned in the murder were condemned to the gibbet.—Matthew Paris, p. 116, says it was Cadwalhon that was murdered; but he was slain before the death of his father.—See Memoirs of Gwedir Family, p. 1. Welsh Chron. p. 238.

some Welsh bard whom King Henry had heard at Pembroke relate in a song the worthy and mighty acts of that great prince and the place where he was buried), was found in the isle of Afalon, without the Abbey of Glastonbury, their bodies being laid in a hollow elder tree, buried 15 feet in the earth. The bones of King Arthur were of marvellous and almost incredible size, and there were ten wounds in the skull, whereof one being considerably larger than the rest seemed to have been his death-blow; and the Queen's hair appeared to the sight to be fair and yellow, but when touched, crumbled immediately to dust. Over the bones was laid a stone, with a cross of lead, upon the lower side of which stone were engraven these words:

HIC JACET SEPULTUS INCLYTUS REX ARTHURUS IN INSULA AVALONIA.

Here lies buried the famous King Arthur in the isle of Afalon.

No action of moment had passed in Wales for a considerable time, and the Welsh were in perfect amity and concord with the king of England; but an unlucky accident fell out at length to dissolve this happy agreement. One Ranulph
A.D. 1182. de Poer, who was sheriff of Gloucestershire, or rather (as Giraldus Cambrensis observes) of Herefordshire, being a cruel and unreasonable oppressor of the Welsh, put the Lord of Gwentland to death; in revenge of whom a certain young person of that country set upon Ranulph with several other gentlemen his companions, and slew them to a man.* King Henry was so much enraged on hearing of it, that he immediately raised and assembled all his power, and came to Worcester, intending to march forward to Wales and invade the country: but Lord Rhŷs ap Gruffydh, a subtle and politic prince, thinking it impossible to withstand the English army, and fearing the king's power and determination, which he perceived to be so implacably bent against the Welsh, went in person to Worcester, and swearing fealty to the king, became his perpetual liege-man; and for the due performance of this contract, he promised to send his sons and nephews for pledges.† When, however, he would have persuaded them to answer his request, the young men considering with themselves that former pledges had not been very well treated by the English, refused to go,‡ and so the whole matter rested for that time: what became

* Giraldus Cambrensis Itin. lib. i. c. 6.—Roger Hovedon, p. 617.
† Holinshead, p. 108.—Benedict. Abbas, vol. ii. p. 411.—Welsh Chron. p. 240.
‡ Ibid.

became of the affair afterwards we know not; but it is probable that King Henry returned to England satisfied with Rhŷs's submission, for we hear no more of his expedition to Wales; and so the country remained undisturbed for a long time, till at length the Welsh began to fall to their wonted method of destroying one another. Cadwaladder, son of Prince Rhŷs, was privately murdered in West Wales, and buried in the Ty Gwyn. The year following, Owen Fychan, the son of Madawc ap Meredith, was slain by night in the castle of Carreghova, near Oswestry, by Gwenwynwyn and Cadwalhon, the sons of Owen Cyfeilioc: but what was most unnatural of all, Lhewelyn (whose father, Cadwalhon ap Gruffydh ap Conan, was lately murdered by the Englishmen) was taken by his own brothers, who barbarously put out his eyes. About the same time, Baldwyn, Archbishop of Canterbury, attended by Giraldus Cambrensis, took a progress into Wales, being the first Archbishop of Canterbury which visited that country; whose authority the clergy of Wales in vain opposed, though they obstinately alleged the liberties and privileges of their metropolitan church of St. David. In this visitation, described by Giraldus in his Itinerarium Cambriæ, he persuaded many of the nobility of Wales to go to the Holy Land, against those enemies of Christianity the Saracens, to whose power Jerusalem itself was now in great danger of becoming subject. The Archbishop having left the country, Maelgon, the son of Lord Rhŷs, brought all his forces against Tenby, and making himself master of it, he burnt the whole town to the ground, and carried away considerable spoil. Maelgon was a person of such civil behaviour and easy access, of so comely personage, and of such honesty in all his actions, that he attracted the most earnest love and affection of all his friends; by which means he became very terrible and formidable to his enemies, especially the Flemings, over whom he obtained several victories.

A. D. 1186. 1187. 1188.

The next year, being the year of Christ 1189, Henry the Second, surnamed Courtmantle, King of England, died, and was buried at Fonteverard; after whom, his son Richard, called Cœur de Lion, was by the unanimous consent of all the nobility of England crowned in his place. Prince Rhŷs being thus deprived of his greatest friend, thought it most wise to make the best provision he could for himself, by enlarging his dominions, and extending the bounds of his present territories; and therefore, having raised all the strength he could, he took the castles of Seynclere, Abercorran, and Lhanstephan; and having taken

1189.

and

and committed to prison Maelgon his son, who was the greatest thorn in his side, and one that was most passionately beloved by the men of South Wales, he brought the
A. D. 1190. whole country to his subjection. Then he built the castle of Cydwely; but the joy of all this good fortune was taken from him by the loss of his daughter Gwenlhian, a woman of such incomparable beauty, and so far excelling in all feminine qualifications, that she was accounted the fairest and most accomplished lady in all the country. Soon after
1191. her died Gruffydh Maylor, Lord of Bromfield,* a man of great prudence and experience, and one that excelled all the nobility of his time in hospitality, and in all other acts of generosity and liberality. His corpse was carried to Meivod, and honourably interred there, being attended by most of the persons of quality throughout the whole country. He had issue by his wife Angharad, daughter of Owen Gwynedh Prince of North Wales, a son called Madawc, who succeeded his father in that part of Powys, called from him Powys Fadawc. Rhŷs, Prince of South Wales, was growing very powerful, and had made himself master of the greatest part of South Wales, excepting Dynefawr, with some few other places which still held out. Dynefawr, however, upon the first assault he made against it, was delivered up to him: but as he increased in the number of towns and castles, he had the misfortune to have that of his children diminished; for his daughter Gwenlhian was lately deceased; and now he had no sooner got Dynefawr castle into his possession, than his son Owen died at Strata Florida, otherwise called Ystratflur. King Richard was gone to the Holy Land against the Saracens; but on his return to England, he obtained the kingdom of Cyprus, and gave it to Guido King of Jerusalem, upon condition he would resign his former title to him: during his stay in this island, he married Berengaria the daughter of the King of Navarre.
1192. Maelgon, son of Prince Rhŷs, had been now detained a long time in the prison where his father had shut him up; but being at last utterly weary of his close confinement, he found means to make his escape. His father Prince Rhŷs was not so much troubled at Maelgon having escaped and obtained his liberty, as at his being obliged to give over the career of conquest which all this while he had gone so furiously on with; but laying siege to Lhanhayaden castle he took it without any great opposition, and brought all the country

* He was the son of Madoc ap Meredith, the son of Bleddyn ap Cynvyn, and was lord of the two Bromfields and Mochnant-is-Rhaiader.

country thereabout to his subjection. What favoured him more in his attempts against the English was this, King Richard having signalized himself greatly against the infidels, in his return home through Austria, was taken prisoner by Duke Leopold, who presented him to the Emperor Henry, who demanded 200,000 marks for his A. D. 1193. ransom, laying to his charge, that he had spoiled and plundered the island of Sicily in his voyage to the Holy Land; and Rhŷs took the advantage of King Richard's absence to subject South Wales; so Roderic brother to David Prince of North Wales, made use of the aid of Gothrik, the King of Man, to get the principality of North Wales to himself, and eject his brother; and, therefore, entering into Anglesey, he quickly reduced the whole island to his subjection; but he did not enjoy it long, for before the year was over, the sons of his brother Conan came with an army against him, and forcing him, together with the king of Man, to flee from the island, they took immediate possession of it themselves. While these things were done in North Wales, Maelgon, son of Prince Rhŷs of South Wales, who lately escaped from prison, besieged Ystradmeyric castle, and after but little opposition got it into his own hands upon Christmas night; which encouraged him to farther attempts. At the same time, his brother Howel (surnamed Sais, or the Englishman, because he had served for some time under the king of England), another son of Prince Rhŷs, obtained by surprise the castle of Gwys, and having secured Philip de Gwys the owner, with his wife and two sons, he made them all prisoners of war. Then the two brothers, Howel and Maelgon, joined their forces; but fearing that they had more castles than they were able to defend, they deemed it expedient to rase Lhanhayaden castle, which the Flemings having notice of, they gathered all their power together, and coming to Lhanhayaden at the day appointed, they unexpectedly set upon the Welsh, and slew a great number of them. Notwithstanding this unhappy occurrence, they persisted in their determination to destroy the castle, and so coming to Lhanhayaden the second time, they rased it to the ground without any molestation. When Anarawd, another son of Prince Rhŷs, saw how prosperously his brothers succeeded, he thought to make himself as rich as they, and by a shorter and easier method; and therefore having, under a pretence of friendship and regard, got his brothers Howel and Madawc in private, being moved with ambition and covetousness to enjoy their estates, he first made them prisoners and then very

very unnaturally pulled out their eyes: but Maelgon escaped this snare, and hearing what a foul action was committed, he promised his brother Anarawd the castle of Ystradmeyric in exchange for the liberty and release of his
A.D. 1194. two brothers, which Anarawd granted. It is, however, no wonder those brothers could be unnatural and cruel to one another, when they could join together in rebellion against their father; for Prince Rhŷs having rebuilt the castle of Rhayadr Gwy, was waylaid and taken prisoner by his own sons, who were afraid that if their father had them once in his power, he would severely revenge their cruel and unnatural deeds: but Howel proved more kind and dutiful than the rest; for though he was blind, he found a way to let his father escape out of Maelgon's prison, and so Prince Rhŷs being set at liberty, he took and destroyed the castle of Dynefawr, which belonged to his son Maelgon: yet notwithstanding he succeeded in his attempt, he lost another castle elsewhere; for the sons of Cadwallhon ap Madawc of Melyenydh being informed that Prince Rhŷs was detained prisoner by his son Maelgon, they besieged Rhayadr Gwy castle, which being surrendered to them they fortified for their own use.

Whilst these unhappy differences and unnatural contests betwixt Prince Rhŷs and his sons continued and raged in South Wales, a new revolution of affairs happened in North Wales. Prince David had enjoyed the sceptre of North Wales for above twenty-four years, and it might have been supposed that so long a possession would have made him so secure in his throne that it could not be very easy to pull him down: but possession is not always the best defence, as was proved in Prince David's case at this time; for Lhewelyn, the son of Iorwerth Drwyndwn, who was the eldest son of Owen Gwynedh, Prince of North Wales, being now arrived to years of maturity, and having sense enough to understand that he had a just title and claim to the principality of North Wales, of which his uncle David had so unjustly deprived him, he thought it high time to endeavour to recover what was lawfully his own, which however he was well persuaded his uncle David would never easily part with: and therefore, being well assured that the justness of his title would never advance him to the throne, unless he had an army at his heels to support his claim, he called together all his friends and relations by his mother's side, who was Marred the daughter of Madawc ap Meredith, Prince of Powys, and having secured the aid of his cousins, the sons of Conan ap Owen Gwynedh and Rhodri

Rhodri ap Owen, he came into North Wales, proclaiming that, contrary to all justice, his uncle David had first disinherited his father Iorwerth, and then had kept the government from him who was the right heir: and though his father Iorwerth had been incapable of taking upon him the government by reason of some infirmity; yet there was no reason that his father's weakness should exclude and deprive him of his inheritance; and, therefore, being now sensible of that right which in his youth he had not so well understood, he laid claim to the principality, which was justly his own. There was no great need of inspiration to understand his claim, nor of much rhetorick to persuade the people to own him for their prince, for their affection had been alienated from David ever since he had dealt so unnaturally with his brothers, whom, after he had deprived of their estates, he banished out of the country; and therefore before Lhewelyn could have expected any sure footing, the whole country of North Wales was at his devotion, excepting only three castles, which David, by the help of the English, on whom, by reason of his affinity with the late King Henry, he much depended, kept to himself. David being thus deprived of almost all that he formerly possessed, we shall account him no more among the princes of North Wales, but trace the history of the principality as restored to the true heir Lhewelyn ap Iorwerth.

LHEWELYN AP IORWERTH.

LHEWELYN ap Iorwerth, the son of Owen Gwynedh, having thus successfully established his just claim to the dominion of North Wales, and being quietly settled in the government thereof, Roger Mortimer marched with a strong body to Melyenith, and built the castle of Cymaron, whereby he reduced that country to his subjection, and forced thence the two sons of Cadwalhon ap Madawc that were governors thereof. About this time Rhŷs and Meredith, two valiant but undutiful sons of Prince Rhŷs, having got together a body of hot-headed, daring soldiers, came before Dynefawr, and took the castle that was garrisoned by their father's men: hence they proceeded to Cantref-bychan, where the inhabitants

A. D. 1194. 5th of Richard I.*

* In the first year of King Richard's reign, Rhys ap Gruffydd came into England as far as Oxford, conducted by the Earl of Moreton; and because the king would not personally meet the said Rhys ap Gruffydd, as his father had done, he fell into a passion and returned to his own country.—Brady's History of England.

inhabitants civilly received them, and surrendered the castle to them. At this their father was justly incensed, and therefore to put a stop to their farther proceedings, he endeavoured by all means to take them, which not long after happened; for their adherents being touched with the sense as well of their treason against, as of their allegiance due to their lawful lord Prince Rhŷs, and being anxious to atone for their past faults, and to procure his future favour, they betrayed their rebellious leaders to their offended father, who immediately committed them to safe custody.

A. D. 1196. The ensuing year Prince Rhŷs levied a great army, whose first attempt was upon the town and castle of Caermarthen, both which he took in a short time and destroyed, and then returned with considerable booty. Soon afterwards he led the same army to the marches, and invested the castle of Clun, which was not so easily taken as the former; for this cost him a long siege, and many a fierce assault; and therefore to be avenged, when he took it he laid it in ashes; thence he proceeded to the castle of Radnor, which he likewise captured; but immediately after it cost him a bloody battle; for he was no sooner master of the castle, but Roger Mortimer and Hugh de Say came with a numerous and well-disciplined army, consisting of Normans and English, to the relief of it. Whereupon Prince Rhŷs thinking it not his best course to confine his men within the walls, led them up into a campaign ground hard by, and there, like a valiant prince, resolved to give his enemies battle, though they had much the advantage of him; for his men were neither so well armed, nor so much accustomed to battle as the others were; however, their courage made amends for their arms, and their leader's prudence and conduct supplied the defects of their discipline; for they chose rather to die honourably in the defence of their country, than shamefully to survive the loss of it; and therefore they attacked their enemies so valiantly, that they were not long able to withstand their force, but quitted the field in great disorder, leaving a great number of their men slain upon the spot; and Prince Rhŷs pursued them so closely, that they were glad of the shelter of the night to protect them from his fury. After this victory he besieged the castle of Payne in Elfel, which he easily took, and kept in his own hands, till William de Bruce, the owner thereof, came to him, and humbly desired peace of him, which he granted him, and withal delivered him up his castle again.* Not long after, the archbishop of Canterbury (whom King Richard

* Welsh Chron. pp. 247, 248.

Richard had substituted his lieutenant in England) marched with a powerful army towards Wales, and besieged the castle of Gwenwynwyn, at Pool;* but the garrison made such a vigorous defence, that he lost a great many of his men, and all his attempts proved ineffectual; therefore he sent for some pioneers, whom he ordered to undermine the walls; which when the besieged understood, they endeavoured to secure themselves on the most honourable terms they could, being unwilling to put themselves to the hazard of a battle, because their enemies were thrice their number; therefore they proposed to surrender up the castle, on condition they should carry off all their arms along with them: which offer the archbishop accepted, and so permitted the garrison to march out quietly. Then fortifying the castle for the king's use, and putting a strong garrison in it for its defence, he returned again to England. Gwenwynwyn, however, was not so willing to part with his castle, as not to attempt the recovery of it; therefore as soon as he understood that the archbishop was gone back, he immediately besieged it, and shortly afterwards received it on the same terms that his men had delivered it up, and he then kept it for his own use.†

The following year there broke out a terrible plague, A.D. 1197. which spread over all Britain and France, and carried off a great number of the nobility, besides common people. This year likewise died the valiant Rhŷs, Prince of South Wales;‡ the only stay and defence of that part of the principality, for he it was that obtained for them their liberty, and secured it to them. He often very readily exposed his own life for the defence of theirs and their country; generally he obtained the victory over his enemies, and at last either brought them entirely under his subjection, or forced them to quit their country. He was no less illustrious for his virtuous endowments, than for his valour and extraction; so that it was with good reason that the British bards and others wrote so honourably of him, and so much deplored his death.

To this prince were born many sons and daughters, whereof his eldest son Gruffydh succeeded him: the others were Cadwalhon, Maelgon, Meredith, and Rhŷs. Of his daughters,

* Powys Castle, near Welsh Pool.—Roger Hovedon, p. 775.

† Welsh Chron. p. 248.

‡ He was interred in the Abbey of Strata Florida (Ystrad Flur), in the county of Cardigan, which he himself had erected; and which became the burial-place of the succeeding lords of his family.—Manuscript of Edward Llwyd, in Sir John Seabright's Collection. Brit. Ant. Rev. by Vaughan of Hengwrt, p. 19. Welsh Chron. pp. 247, 248.

daughters, one called Gwenlhian was married to Ednyfed Fychan, ancestor to Owen Tudor that married Katharine queen-dowager to King Henry the Fifth: and the rest were very well matched with some of the nobility of the country. Prince Gruffydh being settled in the government of his country, did not long enjoy it peaceably; for his troublesome brother Maelgon thought it now a fit time to endeavour the recovery of the inheritance his father had deprived him of. To this purpose he made a league with Gwenwynwyn, the son of Owen Cyfeilioc, Lord of Powys, and by their joint interest they got together a considerable body of men, wherewith they surprised Prince Gruffydh at Aberystwyth, whom, after they had slain a great many of his men, they took prisoner. Thus Maelgon effectually accomplished his design in the recovery of the castle, and the whole country of Cardigan. His unfortunate brother he committed to the custody of his malicious confederate Gwenwynwyn, who immediately delivered him up to his inveterate enemies the English. After this, Gwenwynwyn, having assembled together an army, entered Arustly, and brought it to his subjection.

David ap Owen, whom Prince Lhewelyn had forced to quit his usurpation of the principality of North Wales, had hitherto lived quietly and peaceably, not so much out of kindness to his nephew, as because he knew not how to avenge himself; but now having assembled a great army of English and Welsh, he used his utmost efforts to recover his principality. Whereupon Prince Lhewelyn, who was the right heir, and in possession of it, proceeded boldly to meet him, and gave him battle, wherein he completely routed his army, and took his uncle David prisoner, whom he delivered into safe custody, whereby he secured to himself and his country peace and quietness. Towards the close of this year, Owen Cyfeilioc,* lord of the Higher Powys, departed this life, and left his estate to Gwenwynwyn his son; after whom that part of Powys was called Powys-Wenwynwyn, to distinguish it from the other called Powys-Fadoc, the inheritance of the lords of Bromfield. About this time Trahaern Fychan, a man of great power and authority in the county of Brecknock, was suddenly seized upon as he was going to Llancors to confer about some business with William de Bruce lord thereof, and by an order of that lord, he was tied to a horse's tail and dragged through the streets of Brecknock to the gallows, where he was beheaded, and his body hung up by the feet for three days;

* This prince was a bard of some eminence; a few poems of his are extant at this day.

days;* which barbarous indignity, inflicted on him for no known just cause, so much alarmed his brother's wife and children, that they fled their country for fear of the same usage. The year following Maelgon, who had before routed A. D. 1198. the army of his brother Prince Gruffydh, and taken him prisoner, began to enlarge his territories, and included therein his brother's castles of Aberteifi and Ystratmeyric. The youngest son of Prince Rhŷs about this time also recovered the castle of Dynefawr from the Normans.

The same summer, Gwenwynwyn resolved upon endeavouring to extend Wales to its ancient limits; and for this purpose he raised a powerful army, with which he first designed to be avenged of William de Bruce for the inhuman death of his cousin Trahaern Fychan, and therefore he besieged his castle of Payne in Elfel,† where he made a protestation, that as soon as he had taken it, for a farther satisfaction of his revenge, he would unmercifully ravage the whole country as far as Severn: but these mighty menaces were soon dissipated; for he had neither battering engines nor pioneers, so that he was forced to lay before the castle for three weeks without effecting any thing; whereby the murderers had time enough to apply themselves to England for succours, which they obtained: for upon information of their situation, Geoffrey Fitz-Peter,‡ Lord Chief Justice of England, levied a considerable army, to which he joined all the Lords Marchers, and came in all haste to the relief of the place, where he met Gwenwynwyn; with whom, before he would hazard a battle, he was desirous to have a treaty of peace, to which Gwenwynwyn and his adherents would not give any attention, but returned in answer to his message, that their business there was to be revenged of injuries that had been done to them. Hereupon the English lords resolved to set at liberty Prince Gruffydh of South Wales, whom they knew to be an inveterate enemy of Gwenwynwyn, because he it was that delivered him up to their hands; and they likewise knew that he was a man of great authority in his country; therefore they rightly concluded he might be more serviceable to them when at liberty than under confinement, and therein they were not disappointed; for he immediately got together a strong body of his countrymen, and joining with the English, advanced

* Welsh Chron. pp. 250, 251. Humffrey Lhuyd's Breviary, p. 70.

† In Radnorshire.

‡ Fitz-Peter was an eminent character; he was dreaded by John, who yet dared not to remove him from his great office. When John heard of his death, he exultingly cried, "And is he gone then? Well, let him go to hell, and join Archbishop Hubert! By God's foot, I am now, for the first time, king of England."—Matthew Paris.

advanced towards the castle, where they furiously attacked Gwenwynwyn, who made an equally vigorous defence; upon which there ensued a bloody battle, with a great slaughter on both sides, but at length the English got the victory, and Gwenwynwyn lost a great number of common soldiers (if we believe Matthew Paris,* 3700 men) besides a great many of his best commanders, among whom were Anarawd son of Eineon, Owen ap Cadwalhon, Richard ap Iestyn, and Robert ap Howel. Meredith ap Conan was likewise taken prisoner, with many more. After this the English returned home triumphantly, and requited Prince Gruffydh's service by restoring him to complete freedom, who immediately, partly by his own power, and partly by the affection of his people, re-possessed himself of all his dominions, save the castles of Aberteifi and Ystratmeyric, which his usurping brother Maelgon, by the assistance of Gwenwynwyn, had, during his confinement by the English, taken from him, and still unjustly detained. Hereupon, some of Prince Gruffydh's prime nobility and clergy came to him, and offered their endeavours to reconcile him to his brother, and made him so apprehensive of his just displeasure towards him, that he took a solemn oath before them, that in case his brother would give him hostages for the security of his own person, he would deliver him up his castle of Aberteifi by a day appointed; which proposals Prince Gruffydh accepted, and accordingly sent him his demands; but it was either far from Maelgon's intention to make good his offer, or else he was very inconstant in his resolution; for he had no sooner received the hostages than, instead of delivering up the castle, he fortified it, and put in it a garrison for his own use, and committed the hostages to the custody of Gwenwynwyn, Prince Gruffydh's mortal enemy; but not long after, their innocency procured them an opportunity of escape.

A. D. 1199. In the year 1199, Maelgon, still pursuing his hatred of his brother Prince Gruffydh, assembled an army, wherewith he besieged his castle of Dynerth, which he obtained in a short time, and then put all the garrison to the sword. About the same time Prince Gruffydh, on the other hand, won the castle of Cilgerran, and strongly fortified it. This year Richard the First of England, as he was besieging the castle of Chalons† in France, was shot from the walls with an arrow, of which wound he soon after died, and left his kingdom

* Matthew Paris, p. 162.—Holinshead, p. 154.—Welsh Chron. p. 252, speaks of the defeat, but not of the number slain.

† An inconsiderable town in Limosin.

kingdom to his brother John, who was with great solemnity crowned at Westminster: but he could not have expected to enjoy this kingdom peaceably; for his elder brother Geoffrey Plantagenet had left a son behind him named Arthur, who had a right to the crown of England by lineal descent; which he therefore justly laid claim to, and by the assistance of King Philip of France (who espoused his quarrel) endeavoured to recover. Before, however, Prince Arthur had made sufficient preparations to carry on his design, he was unexpectedly attacked by his uncle, his army routed, and he himself taken prisoner, and committed to safe custody; not long after which he died, and thus King John was rid of his competitor.

The following year Gruffydh ap Conan ap Owen Gwynedh died, and was buried in a monk's cowl in the abbey of Conway, which way of burying was very much practised (especially by persons of high rank) in those days; for the monks and friars had deluded the people into a strong conceit of the merits of it, and had firmly persuaded them it was highly conducive to their future happiness to be thus interred. This superstition, together with the propagators of it, they had lately received from England: for the first abbey or monastery we read of in Wales, after the destruction of the famous house of Bangor, which savoured of the Romish errors, was the Tŷ-Gwyn, built in the year 1146; after which they much increased and spread over all the country; and now the fountain head began to be corrupted; for the clergy maintained a doctrine which their ancestors abhorred, as may easily be gathered from the writings of that worthy divine Ambrosius Telesinus, who flourished in the year 540, when the christian faith (which we suppose to have been delivered at the isle of Afalon by Joseph of Arimathea) flowed in this land in a pure and uncorrupted stream, before it was infected and polluted by that proud and blood-thirsty monk Augustine. Ambrosius Telesinus then wrote and left behind him as his own opinion, and the opinion of those days, these following verses:— A. D. 1200.

Gwae'r offeiriad byd
Nys angreifftia gwyd
Ac ny phregetha:
Gwae ny cheidw ei gail
Ac ef yn fugail
Ac nys areilia;
Gwae ni cheidw ei dhefaid
Rhac bleidhie Rhufeniaid
A'i ffon gnwppa.

i. e. Woe be to the bishop who does not rebuke vice, and give good example; and who does not preach. Woe be to him, if he does not keep well his fold, and be a shepherd, and does not keep together and guard his sheep from Romish wolves with his pastoral staff.

From whence it is apparent, that the Church of Rome was then corrupt, and that the British churches persevered in the primitive and truly apostolical profession of christianity, as it was at first planted in the island; and that no Roman innovations had crept in among them, though they afterwards much increased, when they were introduced by Augustine the monk.

This year likewise we find the malicious and turbulent Maelgon, choosing rather to persist in his rebellion, than to return to his allegiance, and to prefer a small lucre to the love and safety of his country: for now finding that the castle of Aberteifi was not tenable by his own power and force, yet rather than deliver it up to his brother Prince Gruffydh, and thereby procure his favour, he chose to sell it to his bitter enemies the English, for an inconsiderable sum of money, whereby he opened them a free passage into Wales; this being considered one of its chief defences and bulwarks. About this time Madawc, son of Gruffydh Maylor Lord of Bromfield, built the abbey of Lanegwest, commonly known to the English by the name of Vale Crucis.

A. D. 1201. In the year 1201, the valiant Lhewelyn ap Iorwerth Prince of North Wales, banished out of his territories his cousin Meredith, the son of Conan ap Owen Gwynedh, whom he suspected of treasonable practices, and therefore confiscated his lands, which were the Cantrefs of Lhyn and Efyoneth.* About the same time Meredith, the son of Prince Rhŷs, was slain at Carnwilhion by treason, whereupon his elder brother Gruffydh possessed himself of his castle in Lhanymdhyfri and all his lands. This Gruffydh was a valiant and discreet prince, and one that appeared likely to bring all South Wales to good order and obedience; for in all things he trod in his father's steps, and made it his business to succeed him as well in his valour and virtuous endowments, as in his government: but the vast hopes conceived of him soon proved abortive; for

A. D. 1202. in the ensuing year, on St. James's day, he died, to the great grief and loss of his country, and shortly after was buried at Ystratflur with great pomp and solemnity. He left behind him

* The Cantrevs of Llun and Evionydd, situate in the South West parts of Caernarvonshire.—History of Gwedir Family, p. 20.

him as a successor a son called Rhŷs, which Maud, the daughter of William de Brucè, had borne to him. The following year some of the Welsh nobility marched with an army towards the castle of Gwerthrynion, which belonged to Roger Mortimer, and after a short siege, they took it and levelled it with the ground.

This year Lhewelyn ap Iorwerth, having considered his estate and title, and that all the Welsh princes were obliged, both by the laws of Roderic the Great and those of Howel Dha, to acknowledge the King or Prince of North Wales for their sovereign lord, and to do homage to him for their dominions: and that, notwithstanding they knew this to be their duty, and that they formerly had readily performed it; yet, because of late years his predecessors had neglected to call them to their duty, they now began to imagine themselves exempted from it, and some thought themselves accountable to no superior prince, while others denied subjection to Prince Lhewelyn, and held their dominions of the King of England: therefore, to put a stop to the further growth of this contempt, and to assert his own right, Prince Lhewelyn commanded the attendance of all the Welsh lords, who for the most part appeared and swore allegiance to him:* but Gwenwynwyn, Lord of Powys, neither came to this meeting, nor would own the prince's supremacy; which stubbornness and disobedience the prince acquainted his nobility with, whereupon they delivered their opinion, that it was but reasonable that Gwenwynwyn should be compelled to his duty, or forfeit his estate: this all the lords consented to, excepting Elis ap Madawc, who was an intimate friend of Gwenwynwyn, and therefore would not consent to the enacting any thing that might be prejudicial to him, but went away from the meeting much dissatisfied with their proceedings. Notwithstanding which, Prince Lhewelyn, pursuant to the advice of the rest of his nobility, raised an army and marched towards Powys: but before he made any use of his forces, he was, by the mediation of some learned and able men, reconciled to Gwenwynwyn, and so Gwenwynwyn became his dutiful subject, which he confirmed both by oath and in writing: and indeed it was not without good reason that Prince Lhewelyn used all the caution imaginable to bind this man, for he had sworn allegiance before to the King of England. Lhewelyn having thus subjected Gwenwynwyn, he thought it now a proper time to shew some marks of his resentment towards his adherent Elis ap Madawc, and therefore he stripped him of

* British Ant. Rev. by Vaughan of Hengwrt.

of all his lands, whereupon Elis fled the country, but not long after, yielding himself to the prince's mercy, he received of him the castle of Crogen, and seven townships besides.* And now having mentioned Crogen, it will not be improper to step a little out of the way, and here take notice of the reason why the English formerly, when they had a mind to reproach the Welsh, called them Crogens.† The first occasion of it was this, King Henry the Second in his expedition against the Welsh to the mountains of Berwyn, lay a while at Oswestry, during which time he detached a number of his men to try the passages into Wales, who, as they would have passed Offa's dyke at the castle of Crogen, at which place there was a narrow way through the same, which dyke appears now very deep through all that country, and bears its old name; these men, I say, as they would have passed this strait, were met by a party of Welsh, and a great many of them slain and buried in that ditch, as appears by their graves there to be seen; and the name of the strait imports as much, being called in Welsh *Adwy'r bedhau*:‡ the English therefore, bearing in mind this slaughter, whenever they got any of the Welsh into their power, upbraided them with the name of Crogen, intimating thereby that they should expect no more favour or mercy at their hands, than they showed to the English engaged in that skirmish: but this word, which at first was rather a badge of reputation than disgrace to the Welsh, came afterwards to be used in a different sense, and to be applied only when it was intended to reproach and abuse them. To return, however, to Prince Lhewelyn, whom we find returning home after he had successfully asserted his sovereignty over all Wales, and set all things in good order; and who on his way fortified the castle of Bala in Penllyn. About this time Rhŷs, the son of Gruffydh ap Rhŷs, the lawful Prince of South Wales, took the castle of Lhanymdhyfry, upon Michaelmas-Day. This year Lhewelyn Prince of Wales took to wife Joan, the daughter of King John, which Agatha, daughter of Robert Ferrers Earl of Derby, bore to him, and with whom King John gave the Prince for a dowry the Lordship of Ellesmere, in the marches of Wales.§

This

* Welsh Chron. pp. 257, 258.

† It has been erroneously said, that the term Crogens was used in contempt and derision of the Welsh; but that was not the truth; the English meant to express by it animosity, and the desire of revenge.—Royal Tribes.

‡ Adwŷ'r Beddau, or the Pass of the Graves.

§ History of Gwedir Family, p. 22. says she was a legitimate daughter. Fabian, in his reign of John, says that she was a natural one.—Welsh Chron. p. 259.

Prince Llywelyn in his youth had married Tangwystl, daughter of Llywarch Gôch,

This year prince Rhŷs, who in the preceding year took A.D. 1203.
the castle of Lhanymdhyfri, won likewise the castle of Llangadoc, and put a garrison therein, but he enjoyed neither of them long; for shortly after, his uncle Maelgon, with his friend Gwenwynwyn, levied a powerful army, and with it besieged and took the castle of Lhanymdhyfri; thence they removed to Llangadoc, and obtained that castle also, on condition that the garrison should depart without molestation. When they had taken these two castles, they went to Dinerth, where Maelgon finished the castle he had formerly begun there. This year likewise Prince Lhewelyn set at liberty his uncle David ap Owen Gwynedh, who made but an ungrateful return to his kindness; for instead of living peaceably at home, and enjoying that liberty that was granted him, he fled to England, and there gathered together an army, wherewith he attempted to restore himself to his ancient estate of North Wales; but he failed in his project, for his prudent nephew immediately met him on his march, and gave him a complete overthrow,* at which David was so much disheartened, that he returned to England, and shortly after died of grief.† The next year 1204.
Howel, a blind son of Prince Rhŷs, was slain at Cemaes, by some of the followers of his brother Maelgon, and was buried near his brother Gruffydh, at Ystratflur: notwithstanding Maelgon in those days usurped all the rule of South Wales, yet Rhŷs and the other sons of his brother Gruffydh, won from him the chief defence of all that country, namely, the castles of Dynefawr and Lhanymdhyfri.
About this time William Marshal Earl of Pembroke, 1205.
besieged the castle of Cilgerran, and took it; and not long afterwards, Maelgon hired an Irishman to kill Cadifor ap Griffri; after which horrid act, Maelgon seized upon his four sons and put them to death; these were all promising young gentlemen and descended from a noble stock, for their mother Susanna, was a daughter of the above-mentioned Howel ap Rhŷs, by a daughter of Madawc ap Meredith Prince of Powys. In the year 1206, Maelgon 1206.
built a castle at Abereneon; and in the same year there was such an abundance of fish seen at Aberystwith, that the like was never before known in the memory of man.

This

the Lord of Rhos: by whom he had a son, very brave, called Gruffydh ap Llywelyn. He married during his father's life Sina daughter of Caradoc ap Thomas ap Roderic ap Owen Gwynedh.—History of Gwedir Family, p. 24.—British Ant. Rev. by Vaughan of Hengwrt, p. 29.

* Welsh Chron. p. 259.

† History of Gwedir Family, p. 13, says "Some time after, that unfortunate prince with his son Owen were slain at Conway."

A. D. 1207. This year the King of England banished the realm William de Bruce and his wife, on account of an antipathy that he had conceived against his son, and then seized upon all his lands: whereupon, William with his wife and son fled to Ireland, and there continued for some time; and the hardship he now underwent was the less pitied, because he exercised the great power he had possessed in the marches of Wales with extreme cruelty and injustice. The same year Gwenwynwyn came to Shrewsbury to confer with the king's counsel, where he was detained prisoner:* whereupon Prince Lhewelyn invaded his country, and took all his towns and castles, and garrisoned them for his own use. This expedition of Prince Lhewelyn much alarmed the usurping Maelgon, and the more so, because he had intelligence that Lhewelyn was on his march towards South Wales, therefore he now put himself in the best posture he could to receive him, but finding himself not able to withstand his forces, he demolished the castles of Aberystwith, Ystratmeyric, and Dinerth, which he had previously fortified; notwithstanding which, the Prince came to Aberystwith, and rebuilt the castle and put a garrison therein; after this he seized upon the Cantref of Penwedic and the land betwixt Dyfi and Aeron, which he gave to Maelgon's nephews, the sons of Gruffydh ap Rhŷs, and then returned home with great joy and triumph.† Not long afterwards, Rhŷs Fychan, son to Prince Rhŷs, besieged the castle of Lhangadoc, and took it, contrary to the promise and league he had made with his nephews, forgetting likewise how freely and readily they had assisted him in his necessity; therefore, to be avenged of this ingratitude and breach of promise, Rhŷs and Owen no sooner heard of it, than they furiously attacked the castle, and took it by assault, and put to the sword, or took prisoners all the garrison, and then burnt the castle to the ground.

1209. This year King John levied a powerful army, with which he embarked for Ireland; but as he was on the borders of Wales on his journey thitherwards, there was a criminal brought before him who had murdered a priest; the officer desired to know the king's pleasure as to the manner in which he would have the delinquent punished; but the king, instead of ordering any punishment to be inflicted upon him suitable to the heinousness of his crime, discharged him with a *Well done*, thou *good* servant, thou hast slain mine enemy; for such he reckoned the clergy of those days, who were very ill-affected to his usurped, arbitrary government,

* Welsh Chron. p. 260. † Welsh Chron. p. 261.

ment, and therefore he slightly regarded any injuries that were done them; for, on the contrary, he thought they did him good service that did them wrong. He had not been long in Ireland, before he got into his power the unfortunate William de Bruce the younger, and his mother Mawd de Saint Valerike, whom we have mentioned before to have quitted England for fear of him, and to have fled here for shelter. On his return to England he brought these in triumph along with him, and committed them to Windsor castle, where, by his orders, they were soon afterwards inhumanly famished.

According to Matthew Paris, the reason of King John's displeasure against William de Bruce Lord of Brecknock was this:—When the Pope had excommunicated the realm of England, the king, to prevent any inconveniences that might ensue thereupon, took pledges of such of his nobles as he thought were disaffected to him, and would be likely, if occasion offered, to countenance and promote a rebellion. Amongst others, he sent messengers to William de Bruce to demand his sons for pledges, to whom Mawd, de Bruce's wife, being the readier speaker, answered, (though what she said was no less her husband's sentiment than her own,) that the king, who had proved so base a guardian to his nephew, Prince Arthur, whom instead of setting in, he deprived of his right, should have none of her children. This answer the messengers delivered to the king, whereat he was so highly displeased, that he ordered some soldiers should be sent to seize this lord; but he having timely intelligence of this order, fled into Ireland with his wife and children, where now his wife Mawd, with her son, were unfortunately taken by King John, but he himself escaped, and fled into France, where he died soon afterwards.

This year the Earl of Chester rebuilt the castle of Dyganwy, situate on the sea-shore and east of the river Conway, which Prince Lhewelyn had demolished. He likewise fortified the castle of Treffynon or St. Winifred. Upon this Lhewelyn entered into the Earl's land, which when he had ravaged as much as he deemed sufficient, he returned home with considerable booty.* About this time, Rhŷs Fychan, son to Prince Rhŷs, fearing lest Prince Lhewelyn should fall upon him for the wrong he had done to his nephews, whom he, Prince Lhewelyn, warmly defended in their right, made an application to the king of England, who readily granted him what assistance he desired; and with this aid he besieged the castle of Lhan-ymdhyfri. A. D. 1210.

*Welsh Chron. p. 262.

ymdhyfri. The garrison for some time made a vigorous defence; but having no hopes of any relief, they thought it their most prudent course to capitulate, and therefore they desired that they might march out with their arms and baggage, and all that belonged to them, which was granted them. About this time Gwenwynwyn was set at liberty, whom the king had hitherto detained prisoner, and the king also lent him some forces to attempt the recovery of his country, which Prince Lhewelyn had seized upon during his imprisonment; and though by his own strength he was not able to cope with the Prince, yet by this assistance granted him by the king, he soon re-possessed himself of his dominions. This success of Gwenwynwyn encouraged Maelgon likewise to endeavour the recovery of that part of his country which the Prince had taken from him in the same expedition; and he made an application to the king of England, and swore allegiance to him. Hereupon the king granted him a considerable army, as well English as Normans; to these he joined what forces he could raise in Wales; and then, contrary to the oath and agreement he had made with his nephews Rhŷs and Owen, he in a hostile manner entered their country. When he was come to Cantred Penwedic, he encamped at Cilcenny, where he staid some time to take measures for the better accomplishment of his designs: by this time his nephews had got together about 300 chosen well-disciplined men, but with so small a number they durst not oppose their uncle's numerous army in open field; therefore they endeavoured to overthrow those by a stratagem which they could not do by main force; and herein they proved very successful, for coming as near their enemies as they could without being discovered, they sent out their spies that night for intelligence, who brought back the welcome news that all was quiet in Maelgon's camp, and that they kept no strict watch, being not aware of an approaching enemy. This intelligence much encouraged the brothers to prosecute their design, and they marched as silently as they could towards their enemies' camp, where they met with no opposition, being undiscovered, because all were fast asleep. When they were advanced as they thought as far as Maelgon's tent, they furiously attacked and slew a great number of his men before they awoke; the rest being alarmed with the noise and shouts of their enemies, and withal thinking their number to be far greater than it was, were glad to make use of the darkness of the night to quit the field, excepting Maelgon's guard only, who valiantly kept

kept their post and defended their lord till he had time and opportunity to escape. Maelgon's army suffered very much in this action; his nephew Conan ap Howel with his chief counsellor Gruffydh ap Cadwgan were both taken prisoners; and Eineon ap Caradoc with a great number more were slain upon the spot. About the same time, Gilbert Earl of Gloucester fortified the castle of Buelht, where a little before he had lost a considerable number of his men, in consequence of the place not being strong and tenable. Towards the conclusion of this year, Mallt or Mawd de Bruce, the wife of Gruffydh ap Rhŷs, departed this life, and was interred by her husband in a monk's cowl in Ystratflur.*

The following year, North Wales was threatened by a great storm, in consequence of the Marchers having made frequent and grievous complaints to King John that Prince Lhewelyn perpetually molested their country, slew their men, and committed all the waste and destruction possible as he passed along. The king, hearing of such intolerable depredations continually exercised by the men of North Wales, deemed it high time to redress the wrongs of his subjects, and therefore he raised a mighty army throughout England, and called to him all such lords and princes of Wales as held their lands under patents from him, as Howel ap Gruffydh ap Conan ap Owen Gwynedh, whom Prince Lhewelyn had banished out of North Wales; Madoc ap Gruffydh Maylor, Lord of Bromfield, Chirk, and Yale; Meredith ap Rotpert, Lord of Cydewen; Gwenwynwyn, Lord of Powys; Maelgon and Rhŷs, the sons of Prince Rhŷs, and governors of South Wales.† With this formidable army he came to Chester, intending to enter North Wales by that way, and being fully resolved to execute the severest vengeance upon the inhabitants, and not to let one person remain alive throughout the whole country: but resolutions of this nature are much easier made than accomplished; accordingly, Prince Lhewelyn was no sooner informed of these mighty preparations against him, and which comprehended the whole strength of the English nation, and, what was worst of all, which was assisted by his own countrymen, than he issued forth his orders, commanding all his subjects of the inland counties of Denbigh and Flint, together with those of the island of Anglesey, to remove for a time all their cattle and other effects to the mountains of Snowdon, where they were sure to remain most secure from their enemies: but King John marched his army along the sea-coast

A. D. 1211.

* Welsh Chron. p. 264. † Ibid.

sea-coast to Ruthlan,* and there passing the river Clwyd, he came to the castle of Deganwy,† where he encamped for some time to refresh and recruit his army, which, by reason of the long marches they had made, was greatly fatigued; but what the more augmented their misery, Lhewelyn getting behind them cut off all their hopes of provision from England, and the Welsh, possessing the advantage of being acquainted with the straits and narrow passages, cut off all that straggled from the English camp, so that in time they were glad to take up with horse-flesh, and any thing else were it never so mean which they could by possibility use as food. At last King John, finding no other remedy, and perceiving it impossible to continue longer there without a supply of provisions, thought it his best way to march for England‡ and leave the Welsh to themselves, and so he decamped in a great fury, leaving Lhewelyn to bury that great number of dead which had perished by hunger in this unsuccessful expedition: however, to recover the honour he had now lost, he was resolved to try another encounter with the Welsh, but probably not with the same confidence of victory; and therefore returning to Wales in the next August, having collected another similarly great army of English, and assisted by the same Welsh lords, he entered at Blanch monastery, now Oswestry, being in the lordship of John the son of William Fitz-Alan. In this expedition, King John passing the river Conway, and encamping at the other side towards the hills of Snowdon, sent part of his army (conducted by guides who were acquainted with the country) to burn Bangor, which they effectually did; and taking Robert bishop of that see out of church, they carried him prisoner to the English camp, where he continued for some time, till he obtained his ransom for a present of two hundred hawks: but Prince Lhewelyn finding the whole strength of England and almost Wales to fight against him, and judging it impossible with the power he alone possessed to withstand so great a multitude, thought it best to endeavour to find out some method to reconcile himself to the king: and as he could devise no better measure, he sent Joan his wife, King John's daughter; to intreat with her father about a peace, and a cessation of hostilities; who being a prudent, wary woman, so prevailed upon the king that he granted to her husband Prince Lhewelyn a safe conduct to come to him, and to renew the former peace and amity

* Rhuddlan—Red Banks; which might properly take its name from the appearance of the country; or from the battle so fatal to the Welsh, which was fought upon Rhuddlan marsh.

† Annales de Margan, p. 15.—Welsh Chron. p. 264. ‡ Ibid.

amity that was betwixt them; and so Llewelyn having done homage, promised the king towards his expenses in this expedition 20,000 head of cattle and 40 horses, and, what was more than all, he surrendered all the inland countries of Wales, with the appurtenances, to him and his heirs for ever. King John having succeeded better in this than the former expedition, he returned to England in great triumph, having subdued all Wales, excepting that part which Rhŷs and Owen, the sons of Gruffydh ap Rhŷs, still kept and maintained against the English: but having no leisure to march against them himself, he, at his departure out of the country, gave strict charge to Foulke Viscount of Caerdyff, warden of the marches, a cruel tyrant, though well beloved and favoured by the king, to take an army with him, and so joining with Maelgon and Rhŷs Fychan, to compel the sons of Gruffydh ap Rhŷs to acknowledge him for their sovereign and to do him homage. Foulke having received so positive a command, immediately raised his forces, and calling Maelgon and Rhŷs, came to the Cantref of Penwedic; which when the young lords Rhŷs and Owen heard of, and being assured that this blow was levelled against them, and knowing they were not able to bear it, before any attack was made, they sent to Foulke to sue for peace, and for a safe conduct for them to pass to the court of England. This being granted, they came to London and made their submission to the king, and requesting his pardon for all former misdemeanors, they gave up all pretence to their lands betwixt Aeron and Dyfi; and so paying their homage, they were dismissed very graciously. Foulke, however, before his departure out of the country, fortified the castle of Aberystwith, and placing a strong garrison therein, kept it for the king's use: but Maelgon and Rhŷs Fychan, being headstrong, inconstant persons, soon repented them of the peace they had made with the king of England; and thereupon, without the least reason or provocation, they laid siege to Aberystwith castle, and having with much difficulty made themselves masters of it, they destroyed the fortification which Foulke had lately erected and rased the castle to the ground. However, they paid dear for this in another way; for as soon as Rhŷs and Owen had heard that their uncles had broken the king's peace, they made inroads into Isareon, which was Maelgon's country, and having slain a considerable number of his men, among whom was one of peculiar

bravery

bravery and strength, a youth called Bachglas, they returned with a rich booty.

Maelgon and Rhŷs Fychan were quickly followed by the men of North Wales in their revolt from the king of England; for Prince Lhewelyn not being able to endure any longer the tyranny and oppression which the king's garrisons exercised in his country, called together Gwenwynwyn from Powys, Maelgon ap Rhŷs from South Wales, Madoc ap Gruffydh Maylor from Bromfield, and Meredith ap Rotpert from Cydewen, and plainly declared before them the pride and tyranny of the English, and observed that they who were always used to have a prince of their own nation, were now by their own wilfulness and neglect become subject to strangers: however, it was not too late to recover their ancient liberty, and if they did but unanimously agree among themselves, they might easily cast off that yoke which was so intolerably burdensome to them. Then the lords being sensible of the truth and justice of what Prince Lhewelyn had said, and being conscious that their present slavish subjection to the English was wholly owing to their own cowardice, swore fealty to Prince Lhewelyn, and also swore to be true and faithful to him, and to stand by each other to the utmost of their lives and fortunes. Therefore, joining their forces together, they took all the castles in North Wales which were in the hands of the English, excepting Rhuddlan, and Diganwy; and then going to Powys, they laid siege to the castle which Robert Vipont had built at Mathrafal. King John being informed that the Welsh had conspired against him, and that they had taken and seized upon almost all his castles in North Wales, and that they were now actually besieging Mathrafal, presently assembled his army, and coming to Mathrafal, immediately raised the siege, and to prevent the Welsh from coming any more against it, he burnt it to the ground, and so returned to England, having no time to stay any longer in Wales, in consequence of the differences that happened betwixt him and his nobility: but being afterwards at Nottingham, and hearing that Prince Lhewelyn cruelly harassed and destroyed the marches, he caused all the Welsh pledges which he had received the last year to be hanged, among whom were Howel the son of Cadwalhon, and Madoc the son of Maelgon, with many others of the sons of Welsh noblemen, to the number of twenty-eight. About the same time, Robert Vipont caused Rhŷs the son of Maelgon to be hanged at Shrewsbury, being a youth of about seventeen years of age, and so cruelly murdered the innocent

innocent child in revenge for the crimes and offences committed by his father and others.*

Though King John was so severe to the Welsh, yet the Princess of North Wales† was more dutiful and favourable to him; for whilst he staid at Nottingham, she sent him an express, declaring that the barons had entered into a conspiracy with the French king against him, and that the latter was preparing and raising an army to come over to England, upon pretence that the king was a rebel and bid open defiance to the Holy Church, inasmuch as he would not yield to the Bishop of Rome's request. In confirmation of this, she told him that Robert Fitzwalter, Eustace de Vescy, and Stephen Redell were secretly fled into France, to promote and carry on this intrigue. In proof that this design against King John was no feigned surmise, the next A.D.1212. year Pope Innocent the Third detached one of his nuncios to Wales, who absolved Prince Lhewelyn, Gwenwynwyn, and Maelgon from their oaths of allegiance to King John, and withal gave them a strict command, under the penalty of excommunication, to molest and annoy him with all their endeavours, as an open enemy to the church of God.‡ Prince Lhewelyn was far from being dissatisfied with this, for now he had gained the most fitting opportunity imaginable to recover such lands as he had formerly much against his will delivered up to the king, being in the inland country of Denbigh and Flint, and of which Lhewelyn at this time repossessed himself: and it was fortunate that he was so active in doing this; for within a little while after, King John, by the persuasions of Pandulph, the Pope's legate, granted his Holiness all his request, and so obtained absolution at Pandulph's hands, and, upon performance of his promises, an assurance of a release from that Ecclesiastical Bull which had so formidably roared against him.

South Wales had now been quiet for a considerable time, 1213. and they that used to be commonly very turbulent and contentious, were now tolerably easy and amicable: but it was impossible that such a peaceable course of life should hold long, where injustice and oppression had so much sway, and where people were wrongfully kept out of their just

* Welsh Chron. p. 267.—These innocent victims delivered up to John at the late peace were all of them very young, and allied to the most distinguished families in Wales. —Annales de Margan, p. 15. Holinshead, p. 176. Welsh Chron. 276.

† He received two letters, one of which was from the king of Scotland, and the other was from his daughter, the wife of Prince Lhewelyn.—Welsh Chron. p. 267.

‡ Matthew Paris, p. 194. Brady's History of England, p. 482. Annales Waverleiensis, p. 173. Thomas Wykes, p. 37. Holinshead, p. 176.

just and rightful inheritance; and this was the occasion of the breach of that quietness which for the two or three years last past they had so satisfactorily enjoyed: for Rhŷs the son of Gruffydh ap Rhŷs, who was right heir to Prince Rhŷs, finding he could have no share of his father's estate, but that his uncles forcibly kept all from him, thought it best to make his case known to the king of England, and to desire a remedy and redress from him. King John, in compassion for the young man's hard condition, sent to his deputy, Foulke Viscount of Caerdyff, warden of the marches, and to the Steward of Hereford, commanding them to take away all Ystratywy from Rhŷs Fychan, by some called Rhŷs Gryg,* unless he would permit his nephews to enjoy Lhanymdhyfry castle, with all the lands and privileges thereunto belonging. Foulke having received such orders from his master the king of England, sent to acquaint Rhŷs of the proposals, and to demand of him whether or not he would deliver up Lhanymdhyfry to his nephews, according to the king's command; who returned answer, that he did not know of any such obligation due from him to the king of England as to part with his lands at his command, and therefore assured him peremptorily, and in plain terms, that he would not willingly part with one foot of what he was then in possession of. Foulke, therefore, having received this resolute answer, was likewise as determined to get that by force which he could not obtain by fair means; and so having raised a great army, he marched to Talhwynelgain to meet young Rhŷs, who was to come thither with all the forces he could raise in Brecknock; and from thence they marched in three divisions towards Dynefawr, the first being commanded by young Rhŷs, the second by Foulke, and Owen, brother to Rhŷs, led the third. Rhŷs Fychan was not in the least dismayed at their number, but thinking it more advisable to meet them in the field than to suffer them to block him up at Dynefawr, came out very boldly and gave them battle; when, after a warm engagement on both sides, Rhŷs Fychan was defeated, and after losing a great number of his men, he was glad to make his escape by flight: wherefore, retiring to Dynefawr, he doubled the garrison of that place, but thinking the town of Lhandeilofawr not tenable, he burnt it to the ground, and then hid himself in the woods and other retired places: however, young Rhŷs and Foulke laid siege to Dynefawr, and in the first assault attacked it so fiercely, that they forced the garrison to retire to the castle, which for some time they defended

* Rough Rhŷs.

defended very manfully: the besiegers, however, began to play so violently with their battering engines, and to undermine the wall in such a manner, that the governor after a short defence offered to capitulate, giving three pledges for security, that if they received no relief by the morrow at noon the castle should be surrendered, upon condition that the garrison should march out with all the tokens of honour, and carry their arms and all other implements of war along with them. No relief being arrived, the castle the next day was accordingly surrendered, and all the articles of the capitulation observed; and thus young Rhŷs being possessed of Dynefawr, in a little time afterwards brought all Cantreffawr to his subjection. When Rhŷs Fychan was aware that the stream of affairs was running violently against him, he thought it his wisest way to remove his wife and children, and all his other effects, to his brother Maelgon's country, and so leaving Llanymdhyfry castle well manned and fortified, he departed towards Aberystwith. As soon, however, as Foulke was returned to the marches, young Rhŷs came with an army, consisting of Welsh and Normans, before Llanymdhyfry, intending to besiege that place; but before they were encamped in front of the town, the governor thought it his best way to surrender, upon condition that the garrison should depart with their lives. Shortly afterwards, Rhŷs Fychan was taken at Caermardhyn and committed to the king's prison, and so all the disturbances and troubles of South Wales came to a peaceable issue. But in North Wales it was not so; for Prince Llewelyn, being desirous to rid his country from the insupportable tyranny and oppression of the English garrisons, laid siege to the castles of Diganwy and Rûddlan, the only places then remaining in the hands of the English, which he took without any great opposition, and thus freed his country from any title or pretence the king of England might claim in North Wales.* King John indeed was engaged another way, and consequently in no good condition to help himself; for having expressed his regret on account of the indignities and obstinacy he had offered towards Pope Innocent, at this time he did penance before the Archbishop of Canterbury, to atone for all the severities he had practised against the church; and to restore himself the more to his Holiness's favour, he made the kingdom of England tributary to the church of Rome, to be holden of the Pope, by payment of the sum of 1000 marks yearly for ever; and withal recalled and restored to their former preferments and places

* Annales Waverleiensis, p. 174. Welsh Chron. p. 270.

places all such as had been banished, or had voluntarily fled the kingdom, on account of their strict adherence and submission to the Pope of Rome.

A. D. 1214. Nor was this all; for the next year King John, with two of his nobility, the Earls of Chester and Derby, were resolved upon a voyage to the Holy Land, but were prevented taking the journey by the rebellion of the barons, which now broke forth violently, because the king would not grant to them those ancient laws and privileges that their forefathers had always enjoyed. Therefore the barons entered into a confederacy with Prince Lhewelyn of North Wales, desiring him to make what diversion he could on his part, while they were resolved to do the same on theirs; and having raised an army, they appointed Robert Fitzwalter their general. Coming to Bedford, they were honourably received into the castle by William Beauchamp, and from thence marching to London, they were entertained with all the expressions of joy. King John perceiving how powerful they were likely to prove, and that the country did in a great measure favour their cause, thought it his wisest way to nip them in the bud, and to fall upon them before they grew too strong; and, therefore, having levied his forces, he marched, together with William Marshal Earl of Pembroke, towards the castle of Rochester: being arrived there, he laid close siege to the castle, but the governor, William de Albineto, so bravely defended it, that it could scarcely be taken after three months' siege; at length, however, the king's men attacked it so violently, that they took it by storm, where, besides William de Albineto, the king took several of the barons prisoners. This was a disastrous beginning to the design of the confederates, and what did not add a little to their misfortune, the Pope immediately

1215. issued out a Bull of Excommunication against Lhewelyn Prince of Wales, and all the English barons that made war against King John, who was under the protection of the Church of Rome;* but Prince Lhewelyn did not regard his threatening anathemas, and therefore having raised an army, he came to Shrewsbury, which was delivered up to him without any resistance. Whilst Lhewelyn remained there, Giles de Bruce, Bishop of Hereford, one of the chief of this conspiracy, sent his brother Reynold to Brecknock, whom all the people readily owned for their lord; therefore without the least grumbling or opposition he received the castles of Abergavenny and Pencelhy, the Castelh Gwyn (or the White Castle), together with Grosmont castle and the

* Annales Waverleiensis, p. 182.—Welsh Chron. p. 271.

the island of Cynvric: and when the bishop came thither in person, he had the castles of Aberhondhy, Hay, Buelht, and Blaenlhyfny also delivered up to him; but thinking he had enough himself, and being rather desirous to secure his interest, and to strengthen his party in the country, than to heap more upon his own shoulders than he was well able to support, he bestowed Payne castle, Clune, and all Elvel, upon Walter Fychan, the son of Eineon Clyd.

In the mean time young Rhŷs, the son of Gruffydh ap Rhŷs, and his uncle Maelgon, were reconciled and made friends, and so coming both to Dyfed, they destroyed Arberth and Maenclochoc castles, and recovered all such lands as formerly belonged to them, excepting Cemaes: but Rhŷs's brothers Maelgon and Owen, went to North Wales and did homage and fealty to Prince Lhewelyn, whilst their brother Prince Rhŷs marched forward to Cydwely, and having rased the castles of Carnwylheon and Lhychwr, brought all the country thereabout under his subjection. This, however, did not satisfy the ambition of that young prince; for having once tasted the pleasures of victory, and the satisfaction of taking and demolishing towns, he was resolved to prosecute his conquest whilst Fortune seemed to favour his undertakings; and, therefore, he led his army against Talybont castle, which belonged to Hugh de Miles, and forcing his entrance into the same, he put a great number of the garrison to the sword. The next day he marched to Sengennyth castle, but the garrison which kept it, thinking it fruitless to attempt to oppose him, burnt the place and departed to Ystymllhwynarth: but he followed them closely, and the next day took that place and rased it to the ground, and wasted the country in such a violent manner, that in three days time he became master of all the castles and fortresses in all Gowerland and Morgannwc, and then returned home with great victory and triumph. At the same time Rhŷs Fychan, otherwise Rhŷs Gryg, the uncle of young Prince Rhŷs, obtained his liberty from the King of England, leaving his son with two others as pledges for his moderate and peaceable behaviour towards his subjects, whom at other times he had molested and oppressed. About this time the abbots of Tal y Llecheu and Ty Gwyn, were consecrated bishops, the former of St. David's, and the other of Bangor: and the Bishop of Hereford, who seemed to be the most violently inclined against King John, and was otherwise unwilling to part with what he had got in Wales, could not refuse the injunction of the Pope, by whose express command he was constrained to make

peace with the king, which being concluded, in his return homeward, he died at Gloucester, leaving his estate to his brother Reginald, who had married the daughter of Prince Lhewelyn.*

Notwithstanding Giles de Bruce, Bishop of Hereford, had relinquished the confederacy, and become reconciled to King John, yet Prince Lhewelyn would not follow his example, and, therefore, with his whole army he marched against Caermardhyn, and took the castle in five days; having rased it the ground, he successively laid siege to the castles of Lhanstephan, St. Cleare, and Talacharn, which he used after the same manner. From thence he went to Cardigan, and taking Emlyn castle, he subdued Cemaes, and then laying siege to Trefdraeth castle, in English called Newport, he soon took it, and afterwards rased it to the ground. His next design was upon Aberteifi and Cilgerran castles, but the garrisons which defended them, finding it would be of no avail to wait his coming, and to endeavour to withstand his attempts against those places, voluntarily surrendered, and by that means prevented all the evils, which in opposing him, would in all probability have unavoidably come upon them. Prince Lhewelyn having thus successfully over-run and subdued all Caermardhyn and Cardigan, triumphantly returned to North Wales, being attended by several of the Welsh nobility, such as Howel ap Gruffydh ap Conan, Lhewelyn ap Meredith, Gwenwynwyn Lord of Powys, Meredith ap Rotpert, Maelgon and Rhŷs Fychan the sons of Prince Rhŷs of South Wales, Rhŷs and Owen the sons of Gruffydh ap Rhŷs, together with all the power of Madoc ap Gruffydh Maylor Lord of Bromfield.†

A. D. 1216. The next year Prince Lhewelyn returned to Aberteifi to compose a difference, which since his departure had happened betwixt Maelgon and Rhŷs Fychan, sons of Prince Rhŷs, on the one side, and Rhŷs and Owen, sons of Gruffydh ap Rhŷs, on the other. To make up this quarrel, and to bring all matters to a quiet and amicable issue, Prince Lhewelyn made an equal distribution of South Wales betwixt them, alloting to Maelgon three Cantrefs in Dyfed, viz. Gwarthaf, Penlhwynoc, Cemaes, and Emlyn, with Cilgerran castle; to young Rhŷs, two castles in Ystratywy, Hirvryn and Maelhaen, Maenor Bydfey, with the castle of Lhanymdhyfry, and two in Cardigan, Gwynionyth and Mahwyneon. His brother Owen had to his share the castles of Aberteifi and Nant yr Arian, with three Cantrefs

* Welsh Chron. p. 273.

† Welsh Chron. p. 273. Hist. Gwedir Family, p. 26.

Cantrefs in Cardigan; and Rhŷs Fychan, otherwise called Rhŷs Gryc, had Dynefawr castle, the Cantref Mawr, the Cantref Bychan, excepting Hirvryn and Midhfey, together with the Comotes of Cydwely and Carnwylhion. This division being accomplished to every one's satisfaction, and all the lords of South Wales being amicably reconciled, Prince Lhewelyn took his journey for North Wales; but he had not advanced far, when intelligence was brought him that Gwenwynwyn Lord of Powys had revolted, and was become again the King of England's subject. This unwelcome news struck very deep in the prince's mind, because Gwenwynwyn was a man of great power and strength in the country, and of great service to repel the incursions of the English upon the marches, which now, he having gone over to the English interest, could not, as Lhewelyn feared, be so well effected. However, to make the best of a bad matter, he endeavoured to withdraw him from the English, and to restore him to his former allegiance due to himself as his natural prince; and to that end, he sent to him some bishops and abbots to put him in mind of the oath and promise he had entered into, and that he, with the rest of the lords of Wales, had bound himself to oppose the English to the utmost of his power, and had delivered pledges for the sure performance of what he had then by oath engaged in; and lest he should have forgotten what he had then promised, he was desired to read his own hand-writing, whereby it was apparent that he had very unjustly violated both his oath and promise: but all the rhetoric the bishops could make use of, was not of force sufficient to induce Gwenwynwyn to become reconciled to the Prince and to oppose the King of England; and, therefore, seeing nothing else would do, Prince Lhewelyn resolved to make him incapable of serving the English, and entering Powys with a strong army, he subdued the whole country to himself, Gwenwynwyn being forced to fly for succour to the Earl of Chester.*

Whilst these things passed in Wales, Lewis, the Dauphin of France, being invited by the English barons against King John, landed in the island of Thanet, and marching forward to London, he there received homage of all the barons that were in actual war against the king. Then going forward towards Winchester, where King John lay, he took in his way the castles of Rygate, Guildford, and Farnham, and coming to Winchester, had the town immediately surrendered to him. King John did not think it advisable

* Welsh Chron. p. 274.

advisable to abide his coming, but removing to Hereford, in the marches of Wales, he sent to Prince Lhewelyn and Reynald de Bruce, desiring their friendship, and imploring their aid and assistance against the French; and they refusing to hearken to his proposals, he destroyed Radnor and Hay castles, and marching forward to Oswestry,* which belonged to John Fitzalan, he burnt it to the ground, and then departed towards the North: but after he had settled his affairs there, and appointed governors in all the towns and places of strength, whilst he was making all necessary preparations at Newark to confront the barons, he fell sick, and in a short time died, and was buried at Worcester.

After his death his son Henry was by several of the English nobility proclaimed king, and in a little while, most of the barons, who on account of their hatred to King John, had maintained an open war against that monarch, came in and owned their allegiance to his son Henry, though contrary to their oath to Lewis the Dauphin: but
A. D. 1217. what was most disastrous to the Welsh, Reynald de Bruce, who had all this while maintained a confederacy with Prince Lhewelyn, his father-in-law, against King John, secretly made his peace with King Henry. He suffered severely, however, for his treachery; for young Rhŷs, and Owen his nephew by his sister, seeing that he in whom they put their greatest confidence, had deceitfully forsaken them, came upon him with all their power, and took from him all Buelht, excepting only the castle. Prince Lhewelyn was immediately made acquainted with Bruce's revolt, and as soon as he was informed that his son-in-law was gone over to the King of England, he went in great fury to Brecknockshire, and laying siege to Aberhondhu, its principal town, he was with much persuasion prevailed upon by young Rhŷs to raise the siege for the sum of a hundred marks, and at the same time receiving five hostages; and then crossing the mountainous part of Glamorgan, called the Black Mountains, where his carriages suffered very much, he came to Gwyr, and encamping at Lhangruc, Reynald de Bruce with six knights in his company, came to meet him, desiring his pardon for his past offence, assuring him that in future he would be true and faithful to him, and would do his utmost to assist him against the King of England. Prince Lhewelyn accepted his submission, and not only received him again to his favour, but bestowed upon him the castle of Senghennyth, which Reynald afterwards committed to the custody of Rhŷs Fychan.

Prince

* Welsh Chron. p. 275.

Prince Lhewelyn having put all things in order in Gwyr, marched to Dyfed, and being at Cefn Cynwarchan, the Flemings sent their agents to him to desire peace, which the prince, because they always adhered to the English interest, would not grant them. Young Rhŷs was the first man to pass the river Cledheu to storm the town; but Iorwerth bishop of St. David's, with the rest of his clergy, came to the prince to intreat for a peace for the Flemings, which, after a long discussion, was granted upon these terms: first, That all the inhabitants of Rhos, and the country of Pembroke, should from thence forward swear allegiance to Prince Lhewelyn, and ever after acknowledge his sovereignty; secondly, That towards the defraying of his charges in this expedition, they should pay one thousand marks, to be delivered to him before the ensuing feast of St. Michael; thirdly, That for the sure performance of these articles they should deliver up twenty hostages, who were to be some of the principal persons in their country.* Then Prince Lhewelyn having brought all Wales into subjection to himself, and put matters in a settled posture in South Wales, returned to North Wales, having gained considerable honour and esteem for his martial achievements in this expedition.

All matters of difference being now adjusted, and the Welsh in good hopes of a durable freedom from all troubles and hostilities, another accident unhappily occurred to cross their expectation. Lewis the Dauphin, perceiving the English barons slighted and forsook him, concluded a peace with King Henry, and returned to France; and the king having made a promise to the barons that he would grant all their requests, and redress their grievances, they made their submission, without including the Welsh in their articles. They had until this time gladly embraced the friendship and aid of the Prince of Wales; but now, upon their reconciliation with the king, thinking they had no farther need of him, they basely forsook him who had been the principal support and succour of their cause: and not only so, but they conspired together to carry their arms against Wales, thinking they could, without any breach of equity or conscience, take away the lands of the Welsh, to make addition to what some of them had already unjustly possessed themselves of. William Marshal Earl of Pembroke commenced the work, and coming unexpectedly upon the Welsh, took the town of Caerlheon;† but he gained nothing by this, for Rhŷs Fychan perceiving what was his intention, destroyed Senghennyth

* Welsh Chron. p. 278. † Ibid.

Senghennyth castle, and all the other places under his controul in that country, and banishing the English with their wives and children, divided the country betwixt the Welsh, who kept sure possession of it. Prince Lhewelyn also find-
A. D. 1218. ing that those had become his foes, who had but lately courted his friendship, and fearing lest the English being now in arms should make any attempt upon his castles, augmented the garrisons of Caermardhyn and Aberteifi, to make them capable of withstanding the English, in case they should come against them. Though the Welsh and English were thus at open variance and in actual hostility one against the other, yet young Rhŷs, with Prince Lhewelyn's approbation and consent, thought it advisable to go and do homage to the king of England, for his lands in Wales. It might have been thought a matter of supererogation thus to pay court to one who was a declared enemy to all the Welsh, and one that would not in all probability suffer him to enjoy a quiet possession of his estate, if he had ability and opportunity to eject him: but the Welsh interest
1219. was now greatly augmented by a new alliance with some of the most powerful among the English; Rhŷs Gryc, son of Prince Rhŷs, being married to the Earl of Clare's daughter; and Marret, daughter of Prince Lhewelyn, to John de Bruce.*

The Prince of Wales had very soon an occasion to exercise his power, for the Flemings in Dyfed, who had lately sworn allegiance to him, began now to repent of what they had but a short time ago gladly submitted to, and contrary to their oaths, and to the league they had sworn to observe, they attacked Aberteifi castle, which they took. Prince Lhewelyn, being highly displeased with the treacherous practices of these perjured Flemings, marched with all speed to Aberteifi, and having recovered the castle, which he afterwards rased, he put all the garrison to the sword. Gwys was served in the same manner, and the town of
1220. Haverford was burnt to the ground, and overrunning Rhos and Daugledhau,† he committed a lamentable destruction throughout the whole country. This the Flemings received as the due reward of their sinistrous dealing, which soon made them aware of their folly, and their imprudent behaviour towards the Prince of Wales; and therefore being mournfully convinced how unable they were to prevent his farther progress by force of arms, they made overtures for a cessation

* Welsh Chron. p. 279. Some time afterwards he likewise married another of his daughters to a Scotch lord, who was nephew and heir to the Earl of Chester.—Holinshead, p. 204.

† Or "Two Swords."

cessation of all hostilities till the May following, which being granted them upon strict conditions, Prince Lhewelyn returned to North Wales. In the mean time some Welsh lords besieged Buellt castle, which was in the possession of Reynald Bruce, but before they could take it, King Henry brought an army to the marches and raised the siege, and then marching forward to Montgomery, built a new castle in that town.*

The next year an unhappy dissension fell out betwixt A.D. 1221. Prince Lhewelyn and his son Gruffydh; the latter having kept himself in possession of the Cantref of Merionyth, contrary to the consent and approbation of his father. The Prince, therefore, having now no great matter of moment abroad, was resolved to curb the insolence of his son, and sent to him to command his appearance, and to direct him to deliver up the Cantref quietly, lest he should be forced to take it violently out of his hands. Gruffydh was not in the least dismayed at his threatenings, but being resolved to keep what at present he enjoyed, would neither go to his father, nor deliver up the Cantref to him. The Prince being enraged that he should be so slighted by his son, made a vehement protestation, that he would be severely revenged both of him and all his accomplices; and therefore coming to Merionyth with a great army, was resolved to drive his son out of the country. Gruffydh made all possible preparations to oppose his father, and drew up his forces to give him battle; but when both armies were ready to join, the differences between them were happily composed, and Gruffydh prevailed upon to make his submission to his father.† The prince, though he forgave his son his offence, and received him to favour, would not, however, permit him to enjoy Merionyth and Ardydwy; but taking them away from him, and building a castle in the latter, returned home. He had not continued long at his palace at Aberffraw, when another occasion called him abroad; for young Rhŷs, being disappointed of Aberteifi, which in the division of South Wales was allotted to his share, forsook the prince, and put himself under the protection of William Marshal Earl of Pembroke. Prince Lhewelyn, hearing this, marched in great haste to Aberystwyth, and being desirous to punish Rhŷs for his desertion from his allegiance, seized to his own use that castle, together with all the domain and lands belonging to it. When Rhŷs understood what the prince had done, he made an immediate complaint to the King of England, who coming to Shrewsbury, and sending for

* Matthew Paris, p. 262. † Welsh Chron. p. 280.

for Prince Lhewelyn, so adjusted matters between them,* that the Prince promised to treat with Rhŷs for Aberteifi, after the same manner as he had done with Maelgon for Caermardhyn. Towards the close of the year, John Bruce, Prince Lhewelyn's son-in-law, obtained leave to fortify Senghennyth castle, which in right of the prince's grant to Reynald de Bruce belonged to him. Young Rhŷs did not long survive the agreement between him and Prince Lhewelyn, for he died the following year, and was buried at Ystratflur: after whose death the prince divided his estate between his brother Owen and his uncle Maelgon.

A. D. 1222. William Marshal Earl of Pembroke was now in Ireland, busily engaged in prosecuting the war against the King of England's enemies in that kingdom; and taking advantage of the opportunity of his absence, Prince Lhewelyn won the castles of Aberteifi and Caermardhyn, belonging to the Earl, and putting both the garrisons to the sword, placed in their room a strong party of his own men;† but when the Earl was informed of what the Prince of Wales had done, he immediately left Ireland, and landed at St. David's with a great army, and having recovered his castles, he treated the Welsh after the same manner that Prince Lhewelyn had used his garrisons, and passing forward into the prince's country, destroyed all before him as he went along. The Prince understanding with what violence he came forward, sent his son Gruffydh with a considerable body of men to check his fury; who coming to Cydwely, and receiving intelligence that the chief men of that place had a private design to betray him to the enemy, he put the whole town in flames, and burnt it to the ground, without sparing either churches or other religious houses. The Earl of Pembroke had passed the river Tywy at Caermardhyn, where Gruffydh met him, and gave him battle; but the victory proved so uncertain, that night at length parted them; and then the English retired over the river. Matthew Paris writes, that the Earl obtained a very signal victory, and that of the Welsh there were nine thousand slain and taken; though the Welsh account, which in this case is in all likelihood the best, makes the whole army of the Welsh to consist but of that number.‡ Both armies having lain for certain days in a posture of defence, with the river Tywy between them, Gruffydh, on account of provision beginning to grow scarce in his camp, returned back;§ and then the Earl also decamped

* Welsh Chron. pp. 281, 282.

† Chr. Thomas Wykes, p. 41. Chronica Walteri Hemingford, p. 564. Matth. Westm. p. 86. Matth. Paris, p. 267.

‡ Welsh Chron. p. 282. § Ibid.

camped, and marched to Cilgerran, where he began to build a very strong castle; but before he had time to finish it, he received an express from the king, with orders to come to him; and so he went by sea to London, leaving his army at Cilgerran, to continue the work which he had begun. Shortly after, the king, together with the Archbishop of Canterbury, came to Ludlow, and sending for Prince Lhewelyn thither, they hoped to adjust all differences, and to make an amicable arrangement between him and the Earl; but this could not be effected, both parties adhering to their own private views; the Earl, therefore, being assisted by the Earl of Derby and Henry Pyggot Lord of Ewyas, purposed to pass by land to Pembroke; but his intention being discovered to the prince, he detached his son to secure the passage of Carnwyllhion, and came in person to Mahedryd; which when the Earl understood, finding it dangerous to prosecute his design any further, he returned to England; and then the prince marched to North Wales.* The next A. D. 1227. action that passed in Wales was of a nature somewhat rare, and not redounding much to the credit of the Welsh; for Rhŷs Fychan having by some treacherous means or other taken prisoner his father Rhŷs Gryc, contrary to all filial affection and duty, detained him prisoner, and would not set him at liberty till he had delivered up Lhanymdhyfri castle to him. About the same time, Meredith Archdeacon of Cardigan, son of Prince Rhŷs, departed this life, and was honourably interred at St. David's, by his father.

A short time after, a great storm threatened the Welsh; 1228. King Henry having raised a numerous army, was resolved to prosecute to a termination the Earl of Pembroke's quarrel against the Prince of Wales, and if possible, to make all that country for ever subject to the crown of England; and, advancing into the marches, he encamped at Ceri.† Prince Lhewelyn, on the other hand, being informed of these mighty preparations in England, and understanding that they were intended against him, used all the endeavours possible to make a vigorous resistance; and having drawn together all the forces he was able to levy, thought it his wisest plan to meet the English upon the marches, and not to permit them to enter his country. Both armies being come in sight of each other, frequent skirmishes happened betwixt them; but one day, almost the whole of both armies engaged, and after a vigorous attack on both sides, the English got the worst, and were forced to retire, having a

* Welsh Chron. p. 283. † In Montgomeryshire.

a great number of men slain and taken prisoners. Among the latter, was William de Bruce, Reynald's son, who offered for his ransom all Buelht, together with a considerable sum of money, which the prince would not accept. King Henry, finding that his army was worsted in this encounter, thought it advisable to make peace with the Prince of Wales, which being concluded, Lhewelyn came to the king, and having paid him all other respects, excepting that of submission and allegiance, he returned in great honour to North Wales. This action is somewhat otherwise laid down by Matthew Paris,* who writes, that this skirmish betwixt the English and Welsh happened upon another account. He says, the garrison of Montgomery issuing out of the castle to enlarge a certain passage leading through a wood, where the Welsh were wont to rob and kill all passengers, began to fell the timber, and cut down all the bushes which bounded the road, thereby intending to make the passage more clear and secure. The Welsh receiving intelligence of this, came immediately upon them in great numbers, and surprising the men of the garrison, who were busy at their labour, forced as many as could escape to betake themselves for refuge into the castle, which afterwards, having first cast a deep trench about it, they boldly invested. Hubert de Burgh, Lord Chief Justice of England, and owner of the castle, having notice of this, sent to King Henry, desiring his speedy help against the Welsh, who thereupon came in person with part of his army, and raised the siege. Then, the rest of his forces being arrived, he marched into the wood, which was 5 miles in length,† and by reason of the thickness of the growth, impassable; and, for an easy passage through it, caused it to be burnt down. After that, he led his army farther into the country, and coming to an abbey called Cridia,‡ to which the Welsh were wont to resort for refuge, he caused it to be burnt down; but finding it a very convenient place for a fortress, he granted leave to Hubert de Burgh to build a castle there.§ Whilst the work of building this castle was going on, the Welshmen annoyed the English, and skirmished with them frequently, so that many were slain on both sides; but at last William de Bruce with many others that went abroad to fetch provision, were intercepted by the Welsh, and taken prisoners, and most of Bruce's company were slain, among whom

* Matthew Paris, p. 295.

† Warrington (vol. ii. p. 56) says this wood was 15 miles in length.

‡ A solitary place, called Cridia, of the Carmelite order, an abbey belonging to the White Friars.

§ Matthew Paris, p. 295.

whom one that was knighted a few days before, seeing some of his fellows in great danger, rushed boldly into the midst of his enemies, and after a manful defence bravely lost his life. Several of King Henry's men were corrupted by Prince Lhewelyn, and upon that account took no great pains to repulse the enemy; which when the king perceived, and finding withal that provision was grown very scarce in his camp, he was forced to conclude a dishonourable peace with the Welsh, consenting to demolish that castle, which with so great an expence both of men and money was now almost finished upon his own charges, Prince Lhewelyn paying only three thousand pounds towards it.* Then both armies separated, Prince Lhewelyn marching to North Wales; and the king, leaving William de Bruce prisoner with the Welsh, returned to England, having obtained much discredit in this expedition.

William de Bruce was brought to Wales, and there had an honourable confinement in the prince's palace;† but he had not continued there long before he began to be suspected of being too familiar with the princess, King Henry's sister; and, as the report went, was taken in the very act of adultery; for which the prince caused him to be hanged forthwith.‡ About the same time, Lhewelyn, son of Maelgon, died in North Wales, and was buried at Conwey: and Maelgon, son of Prince Rhŷs, in South Wales, and was buried at Ystratflur; whose estate descended to his son Maelgon. A little afterwards William Marshal Earl of Pembroke died, one that ever entertained an inveterate enmity to the Welsh, and upon whose account King Henry had chiefly brought his army into Wales. He was succeeded both in his title and estate by his brother Richard, who was much more favourably inclined towards the Welsh, and never attempted any thing against them. The King of England now resolved to retrieve the honour he had lost in the

A. D. 1230.

1231.

* Matthew Paris, p. 295. † At Aber.

‡ Matthew West. p. 97, says, he was put to death without reason; so say many other English writers. The tradition of the country is, that a bard of the palace, accidentally meeting with the princess, (who was ignorant of the fate of her lover,) accosted her in the following manner; and on receiving her answer, shewed him to her hanging on a tree.

Diccyn doccyn, gwraig Llywelyn,
Beth y roit 'i am weled Gwilim?

The princess's answer—

Cymry, Lloegr, a Llywelyn
Y rown 'i gyd, am weled Gwilim.

BARD.—Tell me, wife of Llywelyn, what would you give for a sight of your William?

PRINCESS.—Wales, England, and Llywelyn to boot, I would give them all to see my William.

the late expedition against the Welsh; and therefore being returned from France, whither he had made a descent, to recover what his father had lost in that kingdom, he came to Wales; and having remained some time in the marches, he returned again to England, leaving his army under the command of Hubert Burgh Earl of Kent, to defend the marches against any inroad which the Welsh might attempt. He had not remained there long, when he received intelligence that a party of Welsh had entered the marches near Montgomery, whom he forthwith pursued, and attacking them unawares, he put a great number of them to the sword. Prince Lhewelyn, hearing of this, came in person with a great army to the marches, and encamping before Montgomery castle, he forced Hubert to withdraw, and then making himself master of the place, he burnt it to the ground, and put the garrison to the sword; the like fate attended the castles of Radnor, Aberhondhy, Rhayadr Gwy, Caerlheon, Neth, and Cydwely; though Caerlheon held out very obstinately, and the prince had several of his men destroyed before the place. King Henry being informed what miserable desolation the Prince of Wales was successfully committing upon his subjects in these countries, had him immediately excommunicated; and then coming to Hereford with a mighty army, he detached the greatest part of it, with a great number of his nobility, to Wales. These, by the direction of a friar of Cymer, unexpectedly, as they thought, fell upon a party of Welsh; who at the first encounter seemed to fly, till they had allured the English to pursue them to a place where a greater party of Welsh lay in ambuscade; who rushing of a sudden upon the English, put them in such confusion, that the greatest part of them were cut off. The king, being convinced that this was a treacherous device of the friar, was resolved to be revenged, by burning the abbey of Cymer; but the prior, for three hundred marks, prevented it; and so the king returned to England, having effected nothing in this expedition, besides the building of Mawd castle. In the mean time, Maelgon, son of Maelgon ap Rhŷs, laid siege to Aberteifi, and having by force got entry into the town, he put all the inhabitants to the sword, then destroyed all before him to the castle gates, which were so strongly fortified, that it seemed almost impracticable to take it in any short time; but Maelgon, being joined by his cousin Owen, son of Gruffydh ap Rhŷs, was resolved to try the utmost that could be effected; and therefore taking with him some of Prince Lhewelyn's most experienced officers, he broke down the bridge upon the river

river Teifi, and then investing the castle more closely, he so battered and undermined it, that he became in a little time master of it.

The year following, Prince Lhewelyn made a descent upon England, and having committed very considerable waste and destruction upon the borders, he returned to North Wales with a rich booty in prisoners and cattle. King Henry, to scourge the Welsh for these grievous devastations, and to prevent their further incursions into England, demanded a very great subsidy of his subjects to carry on the war against the Welsh; which being granted him, he made every preparation for his expedition to Wales. In the mean time, Randulph Earl of Chester died, and was succeeded in that honour by John his sister's son, who was afterwards married to Prince Lhewelyn's daughter. The English in Wales, being in expectation of King Henry's coming thither, began to repair and fortify their castles; and particularly, Richard Earl of Cornwal rebuilt Radnor castle, which the prince had lately destroyed. Prince Lhewelyn was sufficiently aware that the king of England intended an invasion, and therefore to be before-hand with him, he came with an army to Brecknock, and destroyed all the towns and castles throughout the country, excepting Brecknock castle, which was defended so manfully, that after a month's encampment before it, he was at last constrained to raise the siege. In his return to North Wales, he burnt the town of Clun, recovered all the country called Dyffryn Tefeidiat, in the possession of John Fitzalan, destroyed Red Castle in Powis, and burnt Oswestry.* At this time, very fortunately for the Welsh, Richard Marshal Earl of Pembroke, having differed with King Henry, took part with Prince Lhewelyn; with whom joined Hubert de Burgh, who had lately made his escape out of the castle of Devizes, where the king, upon some articles of information brought against him, had committed him to prison.† The Earl of Pembroke, attended by Owen ap Gruffydh ap Rhŷs, came to St. David's; and being very glad of an opportunity to revenge himself upon the king, slew every one that owned any dependance upon the crown of England. Maelgon and Rhŷs Gryc, with all the forces of Prince Lhewelyn, quickly joined the Earl; and they in their march through the country

A. D. 1232.

1233.

tool;

* Matthew Paris, p. 288.

† Among other frivolous crimes objected against this minister, he was accused of purloining from the royal treasury a gem, which had the virtue of rendering the wearer invulnerable, and of sending this valuable curiosity to the Prince of North Wales.—Matthew Paris, p. 259.

took the castles of Cardyff, Abergavenny, Pencelly, Blaenlhefyni, and Bwlch y Dinas, all of which, excepting Cardyff, they burnt to the ground. The king receiving intelligence that the Earl of Pembroke had entered into a confederacy with the Prince of Wales, and that he was now in open hostility against his subjects in that country, gathered a very formidable army, consisting, besides English, of Flemings, Normans, and Gascoigns; and coming to Wales, he encamped at Grosmont, where the Earl with the Welsh army met him. But when the English would have endeavoured to advance further into the country, the Welsh opposed them, and a battle ensued, wherein the English lost five hundred horse, besides a far greater number of their infantry. The Welsh having gained a considerable victory in this action, the king was advised to withdraw his forces, lest the Welsh should again attack them, and they should sustain a greater loss; which counsel the king willingly hearkened to, and returned for England. The English being withdrawn, the Earl likewise decamped, and marched to Caermardhyn, which he besieged; but after three months vain assault, the garrison most bravely defending the place, and the English fleet having thrown in new provisions, he thought it most advisable to raise the siege. Shortly after, Rhŷs Gryc, son to Prince Rhŷs, died at Lhandeilo Fawr, and was honourably interred by his father at St. David's. About the same time, Maelgon Fychan, son of Maelgon ap Rhŷs, finished Trefilean castle, which was begun in his father's time.

A. D. 1234. King Henry was not willing to hazard any more campaigns in Wales, and therefore he appointed John of Monmouth, a great soldier and general of the English forces, warden of the marches of Wales, who thinking to get to himself an eternal name in conquering the Welsh, raised all the power he could; and imagining that the Welsh would not be aware of his purpose, he thought he could fall upon the Earl Marshal unexpectedly: but in this he was, to his sorrow, much mistaken; for the Earl having received private intimation of his design, hid himself and his forces in a wood by which the English were to march, and when they were come to a certain place, the Welsh of a sudden gave a great shout, and leaping out of the place in which they had concealed themselves, they fell upon the English, who were unprovided, and putting their whole army to flight, they slew an infinite number both of the English and their auxiliaries. John of Monmouth himself made his escape by flight; but the Earl Marshal entering

entering his country, destroyed it by fire and sword; and what added to the misery of the English, Prince Lhewelyn, in the week after Epiphany, joining the Earl Marshal, made an incursion into the king's territories, destroying all before them, from the confines of Wales to Shrewsbury,* a great part of which they laid in ashes. King Henry was during these transactions with the Bishop of Winchester at Gloucester, and for want of sufficient power or courage to confront the enemy, durst not take the field; of which being at length perfectly ashamed, he removed to Winchester, leaving the marches exposed to the mercy of the enemy. There being now no apprehension of attack from the English, the Earl of Pembroke, by the counsel of Geoffrey de Marisco, transported his army into Ireland, thinking to obtain a conquest in that kingdom; but in the first encounter with the Irish, he was unfortunately slain through the treachery of his own men: and so his estate and title descended to his brother Gilbert.

King Henry, finding it impracticable to force the Welsh to a submission, and being in a great measure weary of continual wars and incessant hostilities, thought it most prudent to make some honourable agreement with the Prince of Wales; and therefore he deputed Edmund Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishops of Rochester, Coventry, Lichfield, and Chester, to treat with Prince Lhewelyn about a peace.† When the king came to meet with them on their return from this negociation, being at Woodstock, he was informed of the death of the Earl of Pembroke, which he took so much to heart that he shed tears, being afflicted for the death of so great a person, who, as the king openly declared, had not left his second in all his kingdom. Going from thence to Gloucester, he met with the archbishop and bishops, who delivered to him the form of the treaty of peace with Prince Lhewelyn, which the latter would not conclude but upon this condition:—That all the English nobility who were confederated with him, and by evil counsel were exiled, should be recalled and restored to the king's favour. The Archbishop further acquainted his Majesty with what difficulty he had brought the matter to this conclusion, being sometimes forced to add threatenings on the king's behalf, as also on behalf of his clergy; to which menaces the prince is said to have answered,—that he bore more regard to the king's charity and piety than he did fear of his arms or dread of his clergy. The king, who was very desirous of a peace, readily consented to what the prince

* Matthew Paris, p. 332. † Brady's History of England, vol. 1, p. 335.

prince required; and therefore he issued out his letters, recalling all the nobles who were outlawed, or otherwise exiled, requiring them to appear at Gloucester upon Sunday next before Ascension-day, where they should receive their pardons, and have their estates restored to them, which the king had taken into his own hands.

The peace being thus concluded betwixt the English and Welsh, Prince Lhewelyn set his son Gruffydh at liberty, whom, for his disobedient and restless humour, he had detained in close prison for the space of six years.* About the same time, Cadwalhon ap Maelgon, of Melienydh, departed this life, who was soon followed by Owen, son of Gruffydh ap Rhŷs, a person of great worth, and exceedingly beloved, who was buried at Ystratflur by his brother Rhŷs.

A. D. 1235. The year following, died Owen ap Meredith ap Rotpert, of Cydewen; and not long after him, Madawc the son of Gruffydh Maelor, Lord of Bromfield, Chirk, and Yale, who was buried at the abbey of Lhan Egwest, or Valle Crucis, which he had built, leaving issue one son called Gruffydh, who succeeded into the possession of all these lordships.† A short time after, Gilbert Earl of Pembroke got by treachery Marchen castle, which belonged to Morgan ap Howel, and fortified the same very strongly, for fear of Prince Lhewelyn. The next spring Joan, King John's daughter, and Princess of Wales, departed this life, and was buried, according to her own desire, upon the sea-shore, at a place called Lhanfaes, in the isle of Anglesey; where the Prince, in memory of her, afterwards founded a religious house for the order of mendicant friars.‡ About the same time also died John Scot, Earl of Chester, without any issue, upon which account the king seized that earldom into his own hands. Hugh Lupus was the first that enjoyed this honour, who coming over to England with the Conqueror, was by him created Earl of Chester and Sword-bearer of England; *Habendum et tenendum dictum comitatum Cestriæ, sibi et hæredibus suis, ita libere ad gladium, sicut ipse rex totam tenebat Angliam ad coronam:* To have and to hold the said county of Chester to him and his heirs, by right of the sword, as freely and securely as the king held the realm of England in the right of

* Welsh Chron. p. 292.—We are not acquainted with the nature of the offence by which Gruffydd had again incurred his father's displeasure. But there was a rigour interwoven into the destiny of this gallant prince, which discoloured the whole tenor of his life, and has marked him the child of adversity.

† Welsh Chron. p. 293

‡ A testimony of respect to her memory, which renders at least doubtful the criminal part of her conduct; and may, in some degree, take away the stain which history has cast upon her fame.—Welsh Chron. p. 293.—See note in History of Gwedir family.

of the crown. After five descents, Randulph Bohun came to be Earl of Chester, who was uncle to this John, the last Earl. This Randulph had several encounters with Prince Lhewelyn, and was in continual warfare against him; but once more particularly meeting with the prince, and being sensible of his inability to withstand him, he was obliged to retire for refuge to the castle of Ruddlan, which the prince immediately besieged. Randulph, perceiving himself to be in danger, sent to Roger Lacy, constable of Chester, requesting him to raise what strength he possibly could and come to his assistance in this extremity; upon which Lacy called to him all his friends, and desired them to make all the endeavours in their power to rescue the Earl from that imminent danger which now threatened him: on this request, Ralph Dutton, son-in-law of Lacy, a valiant youth, assembled together all the players and musicians, and such others as then, being fair-time, had met to make merry, and presenting them to the constable, he forthwith marched to Ruddlan, raised the siege, and delivered the Earl from his perilous situation. In recompence for this service, the Earl granted to the constable several freedoms and privileges; and to Dutton the ruling and ordering all players and musicians within the said county, to be enjoyed by him and by his heirs for ever.

In the year 1238, Prince Lhewelyn, being indisposed in body, called unto him all the lords and barons of Wales to Ystratflur,* where each of them swore to remain true and faithful subjects, and did homage to David his son, whom he had named to succeed him.† Matthew Paris‡ writes, that Prince Lhewelyn being impotent by reason of a palsy, and sore disquieted by his son Gruffydh, sent ambassadors to the king of England, signifying to him, that forasmuch as he could not expect to live long by reason of his age, he was desirous to lead the remainder of his days in peace and tranquillity; and therefore now purposed to submit himself to the government and protection of the king, and would hold his lands of him; promising withal, that whenever the king should stand in need of his help, he would serve him both with men and money to the utmost of his power.§ The bishops of Hereford and Chester were sent as mediators in his behalf,‖ though some of the nobility of Wales openly and peremptorily withstood it, and upon no condition whatsoever would accept of such a peace.¶ David being thus declared A. D. 1238.

* Strata Florida.

† Welsh Chron. p. 297.—British Ant. Reviv. by Vaughan of Hengwrt, p. 23.

‡ Matthew Paris, p. 369. § Welsh Chron. p. 297.

‖ Brady's History of England, p. 567.—Matthew Paris, p. 369.

¶ Welsh Chron. p. 298.—Matthew Paris, 369.—Matthew Westm. p. 110.

declared successor to the principality, began to molest his brother Gruffydh, who, though his elder, was base-born, and took from him Arustly, Ceri, Cyfeilioc, Mowdhwy, Mochnant, and Caereinion, and let him only enjoy the Cantref of Llyn; but a little afterwards he dispossessed him of all, and contrary to his oath to the bishop of Bangor, in whose protection Gruffydh then remained, took him prisoner, (having, upon promise that no violence should be done to him, obtained an interview with him,) and sent him
A. D. 1240. to Cricieth castle.* Whilst these two brothers continued to entertain an irreconcileable hatred one to another, their father, Prince Llewelyn ap Iorwerth, to the great regret of all the Welsh, departed this life, and was honourably interred in the abbey of Conwey, after he had reigned fifty-six years.† He was a prince of great courage, and had no less prudence in contriving than boldness in executing any martial adventure; he was a great support to the Welsh, and no less an annoyance to the English; he made very considerable conquests upon the borders, and extended the frontiers of Wales much beyond their former limits.‡ He had issue by his only wife Joan, daughter to King John of England, one son called David, who afterwards succeeded in the principality of Wales,§ and a daughter named Gladys, who was married to Sir Ralph Mortimer.‖ He had also a base-born son, named Gruffydh, whom his brother David kept a close prisoner to his dying day.

DAVID AP LLEWELYN.

PRINCE Llewelyn ap Iorwerth being deceased, his only legitimate son David, whom all the barons of Wales had, as before stated, in his father's life-time, sworn to obey, legally succeeded in the government; wherein being actually confirmed, he went to the king of England to Gloucester, and there did him homage for his principality; and all the barons, both English and Welsh, who held any lands in Wales, in like manner did homage and fealty for the same: but the English could not long refrain from their wonted hostilities towards the Welsh; and Gilbert Marshal, taking

* A fortress situate on the verge of the sea in Caernarvonshire.—Welsh Chron. p. 298. —Matthew Paris, p. 470.

† Welsh Chron. p. 298.

‡ Mr. Warrington, at the close of this reign, says—"His talents and his virtues, with the fortunate direction of both, have given to this prince the illustrious title of *Llewelyn the Great.*"

§ Brit. Ant. Reviv. by Vaughan of Hengwrt, p. 27.

‖ Memoir of Gwedir Family, p. 24.

taking advantage of the death of Lhewelyn before matters were thoroughly settled, brought an army against the castle of Aberteifi, which being delivered up to him, he fortified with a strong garrison. Prince David was as yet too weak to appear in the field; and the more so, because several of his nobility and others did not bear true regard for him, on account of the harsh treatment he had shown to his brother Gruffydh, whom, for no just reason, he detained in close custody: but above the rest, Richard bishop of Bangor expressed himself strongly to the prince, and finding that he had violated the promise that he had made to set his brother at liberty, whom, under pretence of an amicable consultation, he had fraudulently seized upon in the bishop's presence, he without hesitation excommunicated him; and then retiring to England, made an accusatory relation of the whole matter to the king, wishing to have Gruffydh released from prison before the rumour of an act so heinous should reach the court of Rome, and thus reflect upon his Majesty's reputation. The King thereupon sent to his nephew Prince David, blaming him highly for such a treacherous action, and for dealing so severely with his brother, and then earnestly requested him to deliver Gruffydh out of custody, both to save himself from perpetual condemnation, and that he might obtain absolution from the severe sentence that had been pronounced against him: but David absolutely refused to comply with the king's desire, assuring him that Wales would never enjoy peace as long as his brother Gruffydh had his liberty.

Gruffydh being acquainted with his brother's resolution, and thinking that thereby he had unquestionably displeased the king of England, privately sent to King Henry, assuring him, that if by force he would deliver him out of prison, he would not only hold his lands for ever from him, but also pay him the yearly acknowledgment of three hundred marks; offering both to give his corporal oath, and deliver up sufficient pledges, for the performance of it; and withal offering to assist the king with all his power in bringing in the rest of the Welsh to his subjection. Gruffydh ap Madawc, Lord of Bromfield, also positively assured the king, that in case he would lead an army into Wales, to revenge the treachery and injurious practices of David, he would give him all possible aid and assistance. King Henry, besides this solemn invitation, had no slight pretence for coming to Wales; for Richard bishop of Bangor, an impetuous man, had prosecuted the matter so warmly at Rome, that the Pope also excommunicated David, which excommunication being denounced against him, his lands were

were nominally forfeited. The king being chiefly allured by the promises of the Welsh in the behalf of Gruffydh, levied a very formidable army to lead to Wales; strictly commanding, by proclamation, all the English who owed him any martial service to repair armed to Gloucester by the beginning of autumn. This rendezvous being accordingly performed, the king came thither in person at the time appointed, and having regulated his troops, and put all matters in convenient order, he marched to Shrewsbury, where he remained fifteen days to refresh his army.* During his stay there several of the nobility became suitors unto him on behalf of Gruffydh, whose condition they desired he would commiserate; among whom were, Ralph Lord Mortimer, of Wigmore; Walter Clifford; Roger de Monte Alto, Steward of Chester; Maelgon ap Maelgon; Meredith ap Rotpert, Lord of Cydewen; Gruffydh ap Madawc, of Bromfield; Howel and Meredith, the sons of Conan ap Owen Gwynedh; and Gruffydh ap Gwenwynwyn, Lord of Powys.† These noblemen prevailed so far with King Henry, that a league was concluded between him and Senena‡ the wife of Gruffydh, and for the performance of the articles thereof, the aforesaid noblemen offered to be securities, and bound themselves by their several writings. As if all things had now conspired together against Prince David, several persons that had been at continual variance and enmity among themselves to this time, were now, by reason that they equally favoured Gruffydh's cause, made friends: thus, Morgan ap Howel, lord of Cery, made his reconciliation with Sir Ralph Mortimer, and his submission to King Henry, in a very solemn manner. In the same form several others of the nobility submitted to the king; as, Owen ap Howel, Maelgon ap Maelgon, Meredith ap Meredith, Howel ap Cadwalhon, and Cadwalhon ap Howel. David finding himself thus relinquished by the greatest part of his nobility, and particularly by Gruffydh ap Madawc, lord of Bromfield, whom he chiefly feared, by reason of his great wisdom and power, and that he was much esteemed by the king of England, could not easily determine how to conduct himself in this perplexity of affairs: but in the end, considering with himself what a powerful army King Henry brought against him, and how much he himself was weakened by the defection of his subjects, he thought it most advisable to bow to the king, and therefore with all speed sent him his submission.§

Prince

* Matthew Paris, p. 506. † Welsh Chron. p. 301. ‡ Sina.

§ The approaches into Wales this summer had been rendered very easy by a long drought, which having continued four months, had dried up the marshes.

Prince David having given a plenary submission to the king, desired, that being his nephew, and the lawful heir and successor of his father Prince Lhewelyn, he should enjoy the principality of Wales, rather than Gruffydh, who was illegitimate, and in no wise related to the king; assuring him further, that the war would never be at an end, if he was set at liberty. King Henry knowing well the truth of all this, and withal being assured that Gruffydh was not only valiant himself, but had likewise very powerful abettors and promoters of his cause, was very much inclined to assent to David's request, and to prevent any farther troubles, willingly granted it. Therefore David, in a while after, sent his brother Gruffydh to the king, together with the pledges promised for the performance of the articles lately agreed upon; who were all sent to the Tower of London to be kept in safe custody;* Gruffydh being allowed a noble a-day to provide himself with necessaries.† Shortly afterwards, David came himself to London, and after he had done his homage, and sworn fealty to the King of England, returned to Wales, being honourably and peaceably dismissed. As soon as Gruffydh discovered King Henry's intention, and that it was the least part of his design to set him at liberty, having flatly denied the Bishop of Bangor his request therein, he began to devise means whereby he might make his escape out of the Tower; and, having one night deceived his keepers, he let himself down from the top of the building, by a line which he had composed out of the sheets and hangings of his room; but they being too weak to bear his weight, (as he was a heavy corpulent person,) let him down headlong to the ground, by the greatness of which fall he was crushed to pieces, and expired immediately.‡ King Henry being informed of this unhappy accident, severely punished the officers for their inexcusable neglect, and ordered that his son, who was kept prisoner with him in the Tower, should be more closely observed. A.D. 1241.

After this King Henry fortified the castle of Dyserth, in Flintshire; and for their past service, or rather to oblige them to the like thereafter, granted to Gruffydh ap Gwenwynwyn all his estate in Powys, and to the sons of Conan ap

* They were sent in the custody of Sir John Lexington, with orders that the prince and his son Owen should be confined in the Tower.—Matthew Paris, p. 506.—Welsh Chron. p. 307.

† Matthew Paris, p. 545.—Hollinshead, p. 228.

‡ Matthew Paris, p. 545.—Stowe's Chron. p. 186.—His son Owen, and Sina his wife, who had shared in his tedious captivity, were the witnesses of this melancholy spectacle. —Ibid.—Matthew Paris says, that he fell with such violence that his head and neck were nearly driven into his body.

ap Owen Gwynedh their lands in Merioneth.* The next
A. D. 1242. year Maelgon Fychan fortified the castle of Garthgrugyn, John de Mynoc the castle of Buelht, and Roger Mortimer that of Melyenyth: but all these preparations were of no avail; for early in the following year, King Henry came with an army into Wales, and began to molest the Welsh, and without any just pretence forcibly to seize upon their lands and estates. Indeed, after the death of Gruffydh, he was much inclined no longer to keep his promise to David, and therefore intended to grant his eldest son Edward the principality of Wales, whom he thought to oblige the Welsh to obey. Prince David, understanding his design, levied all his power for the defence of his just right; yet finding himself unable to withstand the army of the English, purposed to effect that by policy which he could not attain by force. He sent therefore to the Pope, complaining that King Henry of England compelled him unjustly to hold his lands of him, and that, without any legal pretence, he seized the estates of the Welsh at his pleasure; telling him further that Prince Lhewelyn his father had left him and the principality of Wales to the protection of the see of Rome,† to which he was willing to pay the yearly sum of five hundred marks,‡ obliging himself and his successors by oath for the due performance of this payment. The Pope (as may be supposed) gladly accepted the offer, and thereupon gave commission to the two Abbots of Aberconwey and Cymer, to absolve David from his oath of allegiance to the King of England, and having enquired into the whole state of the quarrel, to transmit an account of it to him. The abbots, according to this their commission, directed a very positive mandate to the King of England, who, admiring the strange presumption and confidence of these abbots, or more the insatiable avarice and greediness of the Pope, sent also to Rome, and with a greater sum of money, easily adjusted all matters, his Holiness being very desirous to make the most of both parties.

Prince David, finding that the Pope minded his own gain, more than to justify his complaints against the King of England, thought it to no purpose to rely upon his faith, but deemed it more advisable to vindicate himself by force of arms. Having therefore gathered his forces together, (being now reconciled to and followed by all the nobility of Wales, excepting Gruffydh ap Gwenwynwyn and Morgan ap Howel, who also shortly after submitted to him,) he drew

* Welsh Chron. p. 308. † Matthew Paris, p. 552.

‡ Matthew Westm. p. 139.—Matthew Paris, pp. 550, 573.—Brady, p. 592.

drew up his army to the marches, intending to be revenged upon the Earls of Clare and Hereford, John de Monmouth, Roger de Monte Alto, and others, who injured and oppressed his people; with whom he fought divers times, and with various success: but in the Lent-time next year, A.D. 1245. the Marchers and the Welsh met near Montgomery, between whom was fought a very severe battle; the governor of that castle being general of the English, and having cunningly placed a body of men in ambuscade, pretended, after some short engagement, to flee, whom the Welsh daringly pursued, not thinking of any treachery: as soon, however, as they were past the ambush, up rose an unexpected party, who, falling upon the rear of the Welsh, put them in very great disorder, and killed about three hundred men,* though not without a considerable loss on their own side; and among the slain was a valiant knight called Hubert Fitz-Matthew.† King Henry being weary of these perpetual skirmishes and daily bickerings between the English and Welsh, thought to put an end to the whole at one stroke; and therefore raised a great army of English and Gascoigns, and entered North Wales, purposing to waste and destroy the country: but before he had advanced very far, Prince David intercepted him in a narrow pass, and so violently attacked his forces, that a great number of his nobility and bravest soldiers, and nearly all the Gascoigns, were slain. The king, finding he could effect nothing against the Welsh, invited over the Irish, who, landing in Anglesey, began to pillage and waste the country; but the inhabitants gathering themselves together in a body, quickly forced them to their ships: after which, King Henry having victualled and manned all his castles, returned dissatisfied to England.

Concerning this expedition to Wales, and the continuance of the English army therein, a certain person in the camp wrote to this effect to his friends in England:‡ 'The king 'with his army is encamped at Gannock, and is busy in 'fortifying that place, sufficiently strong already, about 'which we lay in our tents, in watching, fasting, praying, 'and freezing. We watch for fear of the Welsh, who were 'used to come suddenly upon us in the night-time: we fast 'for want of provision, the halfpenny loaf being now risen 'and advanced to five pence: we pray that we may speedily 'return safe and scot-free home: and we freeze for want of 'winter garments, having but a thin linen shirt to keep us 'from the wind. There is a small arm of the sea under 'the

* Matthew Paris, p. 575.

† He was killed by a large stone rolled from the mountains.

‡ Matthew Paris, p. 508.

'the castle where we lie, which the tide reaches, by the 'conveniency of which many ships bring us provision and 'victuals from Ireland and Chester: this arm lies betwixt 'us and Snowdon, where the Welsh are encamped, and is 'in breadth, when the tide is in, about a bow-shot. Now 'it happened, that upon the Monday before Michaelmas-'day, an Irish vessel came up to the mouth of the haven 'with provision to be sold to our camp, which being negli-'gently looked to by the mariners, was upon the low ebb 'stranded on the other side of the castle, near the Welsh. 'The enemy perceiving this, descended from the mountains 'and laid siege to the ship, which was fast upon the dry 'sands; whereupon we detached in boats three hundred 'Welsh of the borders of Cheshire and Shropshire, with 'some archers and armed men, to rescue the ship: but the 'Welsh, upon the approach of our men, withdrew them-'selves to their usual retirements in the rocks and woods, 'and were pursued for about two miles by our men afoot, 'who slew a great number of them: but in their return 'back, our soldiers being too covetous and greedy of 'plunder, among other sacrilegious and profane actions, 'spoiled the abbey of Aberconwey, and burnt all the books 'and other choice utensils belonging to it. The Welsh 'being distracted at these irreligious practices, got together 'in great number, and in a desperate manner setting upon 'the English, killing a great number of them, and following 'the rest to the water-side, forced as many as could not 'make their escape into the boats, to commit themselves to 'the mercy of the waves. Those they took prisoners they 'thought to reserve for exchange; but hearing how we put 'some of their captive nobility to death, they altered their 'minds, and in a revengeful manner scattered their dila-'cerated carcases along the surface of the water. In this 'conflict we lost a considerable number of our men, and 'chiefly those under the command of Richard Earl of Corn-'wal; as Sir Alan Buscell, Sir Adam de Maio, Sir Geffry 'Estuemy, and one Raimond a Gascoign, with about a 'hundred common soldiers. In the mean time, Sir Walter 'Bisset stoutly defended the ship till midnight, when the 'tide returned; whereupon the Welsh, who assailed us on 'all sides, were forced to withdraw, being much concerned 'that we had so happily escaped their hands. The cargo 'of this ship was three hundred hogsheads of wine, with 'plenty of other provisions for the army, which at that time 'it stood in very great need of. The next morning, how-'ever, when the sea was returned, the Welsh came merrily

'down

'down again to the ship, thinking to surprise our men; but 'as luck would have it, they had at full sea the night before 'relinquished the ship, and returned safe to the camp. 'The enemy missing our men, set upon the cargo of the 'ship, and carried away all the wine and other provisions; 'and then, when the sea began to flow, they put fire to the 'vessel and returned to the rest of the army. And thus we 'lay encamped in great misery and distress for want of 'necessaries, exposed to great and frequent dangers, and in 'great fear of the private assaults and sudden incursions of 'our enemies. Oftentimes we set upon and assailed the 'Welsh, and in one conflict we carried away a hundred 'head of cattle, which very triumphantly we conveyed to 'our camp: for the scarcity of provisions was then so great, 'that there remained but one hogshead of wine in the whole 'army; a bushel of corn being sold for twenty shillings, a 'fed ox for three or four marks, and a hen for eight pence; 'so that there happened a very lamentable mortality both of 'man and horse, for want of necessary sustenance.'*

The English army having undergone such miseries as are here described, and King Henry, as is said, perceiving it was in vain for him to continue any longer in Wales, where he was sure to gain no great credit, he returned with his army into England, being not very desirous to make another expedition into Wales. Then all the nobility and barons of Wales, and those that had favoured and maintained Gruffydh's cause, were made friends and reconciled to Prince David, to whom they vowed true and perpetual allegiance:† but the Prince did not long survive this amity and agreement made between him and his subjects, for falling sick toward the beginning of this year, he died in March, at his palace in Aber, and was buried at Conway, leaving no issue to succeed.‡ The only thing unpardonable in this prince, was his over-jealousy and severity against his brother Gruffydh, a person so well beloved of the Welsh, that upon his account their affection was much cooled, and in some entirely alienated from their prince. Thus much, however, may be said for David, that Gruffydh was a valorous and an aspiring man, and if set at liberty, would probably have ejected A. D. 1246.

* Perhaps a reservation was made for a due supply of provisions for the castle of Gannock (a name given by the English to the castle of Diganwy), which, it appears, was completely furnished with every necessary on the king's departure. In one of these conflicts, the English having the advantage, they brought in triumph to their camp the heads of nearly one hundred Welshmen.—Matthew Paris, p. 598.

† During these transactions, David the Prince, being sick and oppressed with cares, frequently retired to his camp at Tintaiol, to refresh himself, and recover from the fatigues of war.—Matthew Paris, p. 599.

‡ Matthew Paris, pp. 608, 610.

ejected him out of his principality; which King Henry of England too (who thought he might bring over David, a milder man, to what terms he pleased,) was sensible of when he would by no persuasion dismiss him from custody in the Tower of London. This occasioned all the disturbances that happened in his time, the Welsh themselves, for the love they bore to Gruffydh, inviting the King of England to come to invade their country, and to correct the unnatural enmity their prince expressed to his brother: but when all differences were over, the King of England being returned with his army in disgrace, and the prince and his nobility reconciled, the Welsh might have expected a very happy time of it, had not death taken the Prince away, before he had well known what a peaceful reign was.*

LHEWELYN AP GRUFFYDH.

PRINCE David being dead, the principality of North Wales legally descended to Sir Ralph Mortimer, in right of his wife Gladys, daughter to Lhewelyn ap Iorwerth: but the Welsh nobility being assembled together for the electing and nominating a successor, thought it by no means advisable to admit a stranger to the crown, though his title was ever so lawful; and especially an Englishman, by whose obligations to the crown of England, they must of necessity expect to become subjects, or rather slaves to the English government. Wherefore they unanimously agreed to set up Lhewelyn and Owen Goch, the sons of Gruffydh, a base son of Lhewelyn ap Iorwerth, and brother to Prince David;† who being sent for, and appearing before the assembly, all the nobles and barons then present, did them homage, and received them for their sovereigns: but as soon as the King of England heard of the death of the Prince of Wales, he thought, the country being in an unsettled and wavering condition, he might effect great matters there; and, therefore, he sent one Nicholas de Miles to South Wales, with the title of Justice of that country, with whom he joined in commission Meredith ap Rhys Gryc, and Meredith

* We have now seen the Welsh nation subject to the most distant extremes of fortune. Their annals, in rapid succession, are marked with striking vicissitudes. Influenced by sudden, and often by hidden springs, we have seen them, by uniting their strength, and exciting its force, rising up to the height of prosperity; and then, from causes which were equally capricious, falling in a moment into disunion and vassalage.

† These young princes were the sons of Gruffydh ap Llewelyn, who some years before had been killed by attempting to escape out of the Tower of London.—Welsh Chron. p. 314.

Meredith ap Owen ap Gruffydh, to eject and disinherit Maelgon Fychan of all his lands and estate in South Wales. The like injurious practices were committed against Howel ap Meredith, who was forcibly robbed of all his estate in Glamorgan by the Earl of Clare. These unreasonable extortions being insupportable, Maelgon and Howel made known their grievances to the Princes of North Wales, desiring their succour and assistance for the recovery of their lawful inheritance from the encroachments of the English: but the King of England, understanding their design, led his army into Wales; upon whose arrival, the Welsh withdrew themselves to Snowdon hills, where they so wearied the English army, that the king, finding he could do no good, after some stay there, returned to England. Within a while after, Ralph Mortimer, the husband of Gladys Dhu, died; leaving his whole estate, and with it a lawful title to the principality of North Wales, to his son Sir Roger Mortimer.*

The next year nothing memorable passed between the English and the Welsh, only the dismal effects of the last year's expedition were not worn off; the ground being incapable of cultivation, and the cattle being in great measure destroyed by the English, occasioned great poverty and want in the country:† but the greatest calamity befel the bishops; St. Asaph and Bangor being destroyed and burnt by the English, the bishops thereof were reduced to such an extremity, as to get their subsistence by other men's charity; the bishop of St. David's at this time died, and the bishop of Llandaff had the misfortune to become blind. In the bishoprick of St. David's succeeded Thomas, surnamed Wallensis, by reason that he was born in Wales, who thinking it incumbent upon him to benefit his own country as far as lay in his power, desired to be advanced from the archdeaconry of Lincoln to that see: which the king easily granted, and confirmed him in it. The next summer proved somewhat more favourable to the Welsh; Rhŷs Fychan, son of Rhŷs Mechyl, won from the English the castle of Carrec-Cynnen, which his unkind mother, out of malice, or some ill opinion entertained of him, had some time before privately delivered up to them; and about the same time the

A. D. 1247.

1248.

* Oppressed by the hated laws of England, the Welsh at this period had neither opportunity nor spirit to carry on commerce, nor to cultivate their land, and in consequence were perishing by famine. They were likewise deprived of the usual pasturage for their cattle; and to recite the words of an old writer, expressive of their bondage, "*the harp of the churchman is changed into sorrow and lamentations: the glory of their proud and ancient nobility is faded away.*"

† Matthew Paris, p. 739.

the body of Gruffydh ap Lhewelyn, base son of Lhewelyn ap Iorwerth, was recovered from the King of England, by the earnest solicitations of the abbots of Conway and Ystratflur; who, conveying it to Conway, bestowed upon it a very pompous and honourable interment.*

A. D. 1255. After this, the affairs of the Welsh proceeded peaceably for a considerable time, and the country had sufficient opportunity to recover its former state of plenty; but eventually, fulfilling the proverb that *plenty begets war;* they began, for want of a foreign enemy, to quarrel among themselves. Owen was too arrogant and ambitious to be satisfied with half the principality, and therefore would endeavour to obtain the whole; wherein fortune so far deceived him, that he lost his own portion of it, as will afterwards appear. The better to encompass his design, he, by artful insinuations, persuaded David his younger brother to espouse his cause; and they with joint interest levied to the extent of their power, with intention to dethrone their elder brother Lhewelyn; but that was not an easy matter; for Lhewelyn was prepared to receive them, and with a powerful army met them in the field, with a determination to venture all upon the fortune of a battle. It was strange and grievous to behold this unnatural civil war; and the more grievous now, because it so manifestly lessened the power of the Welsh to withstand the incursions of the English, who were much pleased with so favourable an opportunity to attack them; but they were too far engaged to consider of future inconveniencies, and a trial of war they would have, though the English were ready to fall upon both armies. The battle commenced with much slaughter on both sides, and which was likely to conquer was not immediately discovered; but at length Owen began to give way, and in the end was overthrown, himself and his brother David being taken prisoners.† Lhewelyn, though he had sufficient reason, would not put his brothers to death; but, committing them into close prison, seized all their estates into his own hands, and so enjoyed the whole principality of Wales.

The English, seeing the Welsh were thus oppressing and destroying one another, thought they had full license to deal with them as they pleased; and thereupon began to exercise every description of wrong and injustice against them; insomuch that the next year, all the lords of Wales came in a body to Prince Lhewelyn, and declared their grievances, how unmercifully Prince Edward (whom his father had sent to

1256.

* Rymer, p. 443.—Welsh Chron. p. 319.

† Welsh Chron. p. 319.—Annales Burton. p. 386.

to Wales) and others of the nobility of England dealt with them, for without any colour of justice they seized upon their estates, without any opportunity for appeal, and if they in person offended in the least, they were punished to the utmost extremity. In fine, they solemnly declared that they preferred to die honourably in the field, rather than be so unmercifully enslaved to the will and pleasure of strangers. Prince Lhewelyn was not uninformed as to all this; and now having clearly discovered the intent and inclination of his subjects, was resolved to effect, if possible, the expulsion of the English, and to be revenged upon them for their most cruel and almost inhuman practices towards the Welsh. Having therefore drawn all his power together, being accompanied by Meredith ap Rhŷs Gryc, he in the space of one week recovered out of the hands of the English all the inland country of North Wales, and then all Merionyth, with such lands as Prince Edward had usurped in Cardigan, which he bestowed upon Meredith the son of Owen ap Gruffydh. Having also forced Rhŷs Fychan out of Buelht, he conferred it upon Meredith ap Rhŷs; and in like manner distributed all the lands which he recovered among his nobles; reserving nothing to his own use, excepting Gwerthryneon, the estate of Sir Roger Mortimer.* The next summer he A. D. 1257. entered into Powys,† and made war against Gruffydh ap Gwenwynwyn, (who always had taken part with and owned subjection to the King of England,) whom he completely overcame, bringing under his authority all his country, excepting the castle of Pool, some small part of Caereineon, and the country lying upon the banks of the Severn.

Rhŷs Fychan was not satisfied with the loss of Buelht, and therefore was resolved to try to recover it; to which end, he went to the King of England, of whom he obtained a very strong army, commanded by one Stephen Bacon, which being sent by sea, landed at Caermardhyn in the Whitsun-week. From thence the English marched to Dynefawr, and laid siege to the castle, which was valiantly defended until Lhewelyn's army came to their relief. Upon the arrival of the Welsh, the English withdrew from before the castle, and put themselves in a position of battle, which the Welsh perceiving, they made all haste to meet and oppose them: whereupon there ensued a terrible engagement, which lasted a very long time; this being, for number of men, the greatest battle that had been fought between the English and the Welsh: but the victory favoured the Welsh, the

* Welsh Chron. p. 330. † Matthew Paris, p. 806.

the Englishmen being at length forced to fly, having lost above two thousand men, besides several barons and knights who were taken prisoners. After this, the prince's army passed to Dyfed, where, having burnt all the country, and destroyed the castles of Abercorran, Lhanstephan, Maenclochoc, and Arberth, with all the towns thereunto belonging, they returned to North Wales with much spoil.* As soon as he was arrived in North Wales, great complaints were exhibited to Prince Lhewelyn against Geoffrey Langley,† lieutenant to Edward Earl of Chester, who, without any regard to equity, most wrongfully oppressed the inhabitants of Wales under his jurisdiction: whereupon the prince, to punish the master for the servant's fault, entered with some part of his army into the earl's estate, and burnt and destroyed all his country on both sides the river Dee to the gates of Chester.‡ Edward had no power at the time to oppose him, but being resolved to be revenged upon the Welsh the first opportunity, he desired aid of his uncle, then chosen King of the Romans, who sent him a strong detachment of troops, with which he purposed to give Prince Lhewelyn battle: finding him, however, too strong, he thought it more adviseable to desist from hostility, the prince's army consisting of ten thousand experienced men, who were obliged by oath rather all to die in the field than to suffer the English to gain any advantage over the Welsh: but Gruffydh ap Madoc Maelor, Lord of Dinas Brân,§ a person of notorious reputation for injustice and oppression, basely forsook the Welsh his countrymen, and with all his forces went over to the Earl of Chester.

A.D. 1258. The next year Prince Lhewelyn passed to South Wales, and seized into his hands the land of Cemaes, and having reconciled the difference between Rhŷs Gryg and Rhŷs Fychan, he won the castle of Trefdraeth, with the whole country of Rhos, excepting Haverford. Then he marched in an hostile manner towards Glamorgan, and rased to the ground the castle of Lhangymwch; and thence returning to North Wales, he met by the way with Edward Earl of Chester, whom he forced to return precipitately. Before, however, he concluded this expedition, he would be revenged upon that ungrateful fugitive Gruffydh ap Madoc Maelor, and thereupon passing through Bromfield, he laid waste the whole

* Welsh Chron. pp. 320, 322.

† Brady, pp. 721, 722.—It is probable he succeeded Alan de Zouch, who had brought into England much treasure in carts out of Wales.

‡ Chron. of Thomas Wyke, p. 50.—Matthew Paris, pp. 805, 806, 810.

§ Near Llangollen, in Denbighshire.—Welsh Chron. p. 255.

whole country.* Upon this the Kings of England and Scotland sent to Lhewelyn, requesting him to cease from hostility, and from thus unmercifully wasting, and forcibly taking away other men's estates. The prince was not over willing to hearken to their request; on the contrary, finding the time of the year very seasonable for action against the English, he divided his army into two divisions, each of them consisting of 1500 foot and 500 horse, with which he purposed to enlarge his conquest. Edward Earl of Chester, to prevent the blow which so imminently hung over his head, sent over to Ireland for succours; of whose coming Prince Lhewelyn being certified, he manned a fleet to intercept them, which meeting with the Irish at sea, after a smart attack forced them to return back with loss. King Henry, being informed of the miscarriage of the Irish, resolved to come in person against the Welsh, and having drawn together the whole strength of England, from St. Michael's Mount in Cornwall to the river Tweed, marched with his son Edward in great indignation to North Wales, and without any opposition advanced as far as Diganwy:† but the prince had obstructed his farther progress and prevented him making any long stay in Wales, by previously causing all kinds of provision and forage to be carried over the river, and then securing the strait and narrow passages whereby the English might have got farther into the country; in consequence of which the army was in a short time so greatly fatigued, that the king for want of necessary subsistence was forced to retire in haste to England with considerable loss.

The prince, after that, sending for all the forces in South Wales, came to the marches, where Gruffydh Lord of Bromfield, finding that the King of England was not able to defend his estate, yielded himself up,‡ and then passing to Powys,

* Matthew Paris, p. 806. † Welsh Chron. p. 321.

‡ The late events had given a fortunate turn to affairs. The present prosperity of the Welsh, the spoils they had taken from the enemy, the general confederacy which had been lately renewed, and the return of Gruffydh ap Madoc to his allegiance, had diffused through every bosom the hopes of better days. To raise these hopes into pious confidence, Lhewelyn addressed his followers in this consolatory and animating language:— "Thus far," said he, "the Lord God of Hosts hath helped us; for it must appear to all "that the advantages we have obtained are not to be ascribed to our own strength, but "to the favour of God, who can as easily save by *few* as by *many*. How should we, a "poor, weak, and unwarlike people, compared with the English, dare to contend with so "mighty a power, if God did not patronise our cause? His eye has seen our affliction; "not only those injuries we have suffered from Geoffrey de Langley, but those also "which we have received from other cruel instruments of Henry, and of Edward. From "this moment our all is at stake, if we fall into the hands of the enemy we are to expect no "mercy. Let us then stand firm to each other. It is our union alone which can render "us invincible. You see in what manner the King of England treats his own subjects, how "he

Powys, the prince banished Gruffydh ap Gwenwynwyn, and took all the lands of that country into his own hands. Proceeding farther, he was encountered with by Gilbert de Clare Earl of Gloucester, who with a chosen body of English forces gave him battle: but Lhewelyn's army, exceeding them both in number and courage, they easily vanquished and overcame the English, and the victory being quickly obtained, the prince immediately reduced to his power all the castles belonging to the Earl of Gloucester. King Henry, hearing of the Earl's overthrow, was much concerned at the loss of so many brave soldiers, in whose valour and experience he had always put great confidence, and therefore, to revenge their deaths, he again resolved to march against the Welsh. Having called his forces together, and received supplies from Gascoign and Ireland, he came to Wales, but not daring to venture far into the country, for fear of being forced to make another ignominious retreat, he contented himself with destroying the corn near the borders, it being harvest time, and so returned to England. At this time, however, Lord James Audley, whose daughter was married to Gruffydh Lord of Bromfield, did more mischief and injury to the Welsh; for, having brought over a great number of horsemen from Germany to serve against the Welsh, they were so terrified by the unusual large size of the horses, and the unaccustomed manner of fighting used by the Germans, that in the first encounter the Welsh were easily overcome: but, intending to revenge this disgrace, and withal being better acquainted with their method of arms, the Welsh in a short time after made inroads into the Lord Audley's lands, where the Germans immediately attacked them, and pursued them to certain narrow passages, to which the Welsh designedly made their retreat. The Germans, thinking they had entirely driven the Welsh away, returned carelessly back, but being suddenly attacked, when they had no thought of an enemy being behind them, they were nearly all slain by the Welsh that had thus rallied. This year a very great scarcity of oxen and horses happened in England, whereof several thousands yearly were supplied out

" he seizes their estates, impoverishes their families, and alienates their minds. Will he " then spare us, after all the provocations we have given him, and the farther acts of " hostility and revenge which we meditate against him? No; it is evidently his intention " to blot out our name from under the face of heaven. Is it not better then at once to " die, and go to God, than to live for a time at the capricious will of another, and at last " to suffer some ignominious death assigned us by an insulting enemy?" Animated by this oration, the Welsh infested the English borders with incessant inroads; in the course of their ravages, by fire, by the sword, and by plunder, they rendered the frontier a scene of desolation.

out of Wales; in consequence of which, the marches were completely despoiled of all their breed, and not so much as a beast was to be seen in all the borders.

The next spring all the nobility of Wales assembled A.D. 1259. together and took their mutual oaths to defend their country even to death, against the oppressive invasions of the English, and not to relinquish and forsake one another under the penalties of perjury: but Meredith ap Rhŷs of South Wales violated this agreement, and put himself into the service of the King of England. King Henry was now prepared to attack the Welsh, and for this purpose he summoned a parliament, wherein he proposed to raise a subsidy towards the conquest of Wales, being not able of himself to bear the expenses of this war, in consequence of several losses he had already received, the country of Pembroke being lately destroyed and taken by the Welsh, where they found plenty of salt, of which article they were, at that time, in great need.* William de Valentia accused the Earls of Leicester and Gloucester as the authors of the intended war, and quite broke all their measures, so that the king was forced to prorogue the parliament for a time without any grant of a subsidy: but in a short time after, it sat at Oxford, where King Henry and Edward his son took a solemn oath to observe the laws and statutes of the realm, and the same being tendered to Guy and William, the king's brothers, and to Henry, son to the King of Almain, and to Earl Warren, they refused to take it, and departed. In this parliament the lords of Wales openly offered to be tried by the laws for any offence they had unjustly committed against the king, which was chiefly opposed by Edward, who caused one Patrick de Canton (to whom the lordship of Cydwely was given, in case he could win and keep the same) to be sent to Caermardhyn as lieutenant for the king, with whom Meredith ap Rhŷs was joined in commission. Being arrived at Caermardhyn, Patrick sent to the prince, to desire him to appoint commissioners to treat with him concerning a peace, which he consented to, and, without any suspicion of treachery, sent Meredith ap Owen and Rhŷs ap Rhŷs to Emlyn, to conclude the same if possible: but Patrick, meaning no such thing, laid an ambuscade for the Welsh, who coming unsuspectingly forward, were by the way villainously attacked by the English, and a great many were slain; those that happily escaped, however, raised an alarm in the country, and immediately gave chase to Patrick and

* In consequence of their brine works having been destroyed by King Henry.—Matthew Paris, p. 819.

and his accomplices, who being at length overtaken, were almost all put to the sword. Prince Llewelyn was, notwithstanding, wholly bent upon a peace, and not only desired it, but was willing to purchase it for a sum of money, for which purpose he offered to give the king 4000 marks, to his son 300, and 200 to the queen, which the king utterly refused, replying, That it was not a sufficient recompense for all the damages he had suffered by the Welsh. Matthew of Westminster reports, that about Michaelmas this year, the Bishop of Bangor was commissioned by the prince and nobility of Wales to treat with the King of England about a peace, and to offer him 16,000 pounds for the same, upon these conditions, that, according to their ancient custom, the Welsh should have all causes tried and determined at Chester, and that they should freely enjoy the laws and customs of their own country; but what was the result of this treaty, my author does not mention.

A. D. 1260. There being no hope of a peace, Prince Llewelyn early next year appeared in the field, and passed to South Wales; and first attacked Sir Roger Mortimer, who, contrary to his oath, supported the King of England in his quarrel. Having forcibly dispossessed him of all Buellit, and without any opposition taken the castle, where was found a
1261. plentiful magazine, he marched through all South Wales, confirming his conquest, and afterwards returned to his palace at Aber, between Bangor and Conway. The year
1262. following, Owen ap Meredith Lord of Cydewen died: but
1263. the next summer was somewhat more noted for action, as a party of Prince Llewelyn's men took by surprise the castle of Melienyth, belonging to Sir Roger Mortimer, and having put the other part of the garrison to the sword, they took Howel ap Meyric, the governor, with his wife and children, prisoners; and after that the castle was demolished by the prince's order. Sir Roger Mortimer, hearing of this, with a great body of lords and knights came to Melienyth, where Prince Llewelyn met him; but Sir Roger, not daring to hazard a battle, planted himself within the ruins, and finding his force could be of no avail, desired leave of the prince to retire peaceably. The Prince, upon the account of relation and near consanguinity betwixt them, and withal because he would not be so mean spirited as to fall upon an enemy that had no power to resist him, let him safely depart with his forces, and then passed on himself to Brecknock, at the request of the people of that country, who swore fidelity unto him, after which he returned to North Wales:

Wales: and now being confederate with the barons against King Henry, he was resolved to do something to the injury of the English; he therefore invaded the earldom of Chester, and destroyed the castles of Diganwy and Diserth belonging to Edward, who came thither, but was unable to prevent the Welsh committing the injury they intended. The next year John Strange, junior, constable of A. D. 1264.
Montgomery, with a great number of marchers, came a little before Easter by night, through Ceri to Cydewen, intending to surprise the castle, which when the people of the country understood, they gathered together, and attacking the forces of Strange, slew two hundred of his men, but he himself with a few of his troops got safely back.

Within a short time after, the marchers and the Welsh met again near a place called Clun, where a warm engagement happened between them, in which the Welsh were worsted, and had a great number of their men slain. After this, nothing remarkable fell out for a considerable time, unless it were, that David, being released out of prison by Prince Lhewelyn his brother, most ungratefully forsook him, and with all his power leagued with his enemies the English; also Gruffydh ap Gwenwynwyn, having taken the castle of Mold, rased it to the ground. During this comparatively quiet and inactive interval in Wales, Meredith ap Owen, the main support and defender of South Wales, died, to the great disadvantage of the affairs of that country: and now indeed, the Welsh were likely to be made sensible 1268.
of the loss of so considerable a person, for King Henry resolved once more to lead an army into Wales, and to try if he could have better success than he had hitherto obtained against the Welsh: but when he was prepared to undertake this expedition, Ottobonus, Pope Clement's legate in England, interposed and procured a peace, which was concluded upon at the castle of Montgomery,* wherein it was agreed, that Prince Lhewelyn should give the king thirty† thousand marks, and the king was to grant the prince a charter, from thenceforth to receive homage and fealty of all the nobility and barons of Wales, excepting one, so that they could hold their lands of no other but himself, and from thenceforward he was to be lawfully stiled Prince of Wales. This charter being ratified and confirmed, as well by the authority of the pope, as by the king's seal, Prince Lhewelyn desisted from any farther acts of hostility, and punctually observed all the articles of agreement between

* Welsh Chron. p. 327.
† Matthew Paris, p. 875, says £32,000.—Welsh Chron. p. 327.

between him and King Henry, so that no outrage between the English and Welsh occurred during the remainder of this king's reign. Within that space, died Grono ap Ednyfed Fychan, one of the chief lords of the prince's council, and shortly after him Gruffydh Lord of Bromfield, who lies buried at Valle Crucis.*

A. D. 1272. The death of King Henry, however, put an end to the observation of the peace betwixt the English and Welsh, for that event took place on the sixteenth of November this year, and he left this kingdom to his son Edward. Prince Edward was then in the Holy Land, actively engaged against those enemies of christianity, the Turks, where he had already continued above a year; but being informed of his father's death, and that in his absence he was proclaimed King of England, he made all haste to return to undergo the solemnity of coronation: but what by the tediousness of the journey, and what by being honourably detained at princes' courts in his way, it was two years before he could get into England, and then upon the fifteenth of August, in the year 1274, he was crowned at Westminster. Prince Lhewelyn was summoned to attend at his coronation, but he flatly refused to appear,† unless upon sure terms of safe conduct; for, having offended several of the English nobility, he could not in safety pass through their country without the danger of exposing his person to the inveterate malice and implacable revenge of some of them: and, therefore, unless the king's brother, the Earl of Gloucester, and Robert Burnell Lord Chief Justice of England,‡ were delivered up as pledges for his safe conduct, he would not come to do his homage and fealty at the coronation, according to the writ directed to him. Indeed, seeing that King Edward had broken the peace lately concluded upon before the Pope's legate, and received and honourably entertained such noblemen of Wales, as for their disloyalty were banished by Prince Lhewelyn, and from whom he feared some treachery, there was no reason that the prince should pay him any subjection, as by this breach of the peace he was exempted from

* Welsh Chron. p. 327.

† It appears that Lhewelyn was summoned by King Edward to repair to different places; and it is highly probable, during this time, that the following remarkable circumstance took place. Edward being at Aust Ferry on the Severn, and knowing that the Prince of Wales was on the opposite side, sent him an invitation to come over the river, that they might confer together and settle some matters of dispute. This being refused by Lhewelyn, King Edward threw himself into a boat, and crossed over to the prince; who, struck with the gallantry of the action, leaped into the water to receive him, telling the king at the same time that his humility had conquered his own pride, and that his wisdom had triumphed over his own folly.

‡ Rymer, p. 41. J. Rossi, Ant. Warw. p. 162.

from all homage. However, Prince Lhewelyn, to show that it was not out of any stubbornness or disrespect to the King of England, that he refused to come, sent up his reasons by the Abbots of Ystratflur and Conway to Robert Kilwarby Archbishop of Canterbury, and the rest of the bishops then sitting in convocation in the New Temple at London, which were to this effect:—

" *To the Most Reverend Fathers in God, Robert, Arch-*
" *bishop of Canterbury and Metropolitan of all Eng-*
" *land, the Archbishop of York, and the rest of the*
" *Bishops in Convocation; Lhewelyn, Prince of Wales*
" *and Lord of Snowdon, sendeth greeting:*

" WE would have your Lordships to understand, that " whereas formerly most terrible and incessant wars were " continually managed betwixt Henry King of England and " Ourself; the same were at last composed, and all matters " of differences were adjusted by the means of his Excel- " lency Cardinal Ottobonus, the Pope's legate, who having " drawn the articles and conditions of the peace agreed " upon, they were signed and swore to, not only by the " king, but also the prince his son, now king of England. " Among these articles were comprehended, that We and " Our successors should hold of the king and his successor, " the principality of Wales, so that all the Welsh lords, one " baron excepted, should hold their baronies and estates *in* " *capite* of Us, and should pay their homage and fealty for " the same to Us; We in like manner doing homage to the " king of England and his successors. And besides, that " the king and his successors should never offer to receive " and entertain any of Our enemies, nor any such of Our " own subjects as were lawfully banished and excluded Our " dominions of Wales, nor by any means defend and uphold " such against Us. Contrary to which articles, King " Edward has forcibly seized upon the estates of certain " barons of Wales, which they and their ancestors have " been immemorably possessed of, and detains a barony " which by the form of peace should have been delivered " to us; and moreover, has hitherto entertained David ap " Gruffydh Our brother, and Gruffydh ap Gwenwynwyn, " with several other of Our enemies who are outlaws and " fugitives of Our country, and though We have often " exhibited Our grievances and complaints against them, " for destroying and pillaging Our country, yet We could " never obtain of the king any relief or redress for the " several wrongs and injuries We received at their hands;

" but

"but on the contrary they still persist to commit wastes "and other outrages in Our dominions. And for all this, "he summons Us to do him homage at a place which is "altogether dangerous to Our person, where Our inveterate "enemies, and which is worse, Our own unnatural subjects, "bear the greatest sway and respect with the king. And "though We have alleged several reasons to the king and "his council, why the place by him assigned is not safe "and indifferent for Us to come, and desire him to appoint "another, whereto we might with more safety resort, or "else that he would send commissioners to receive Our "oath and homage, till he could more opportunely receive "them in person; yet he would not assent to Our just and "reasonable request, nor be satisfied with the reasons We "exhibited for Our non-appearance. Therefore We desire "your lordships earnestly to weigh the dismal effects that "will happen to the subjects both of England and Wales "upon the breach of the articles of peace, and that you "would be pleased to inform the king of the sad conse- "quence of another war, which can no way be prevented "but by using Us according to the conditions of the former "peace, which, for Our part, We will in no measure trans- "gress. But if the king will not hearken to your counsel, "We hope that you will hold Us excused, if the nation be "disquieted and troubled thereupon, which as much as in "Us lieth We endeavour to prevent."

King Edward would not admit of any excuse, nor hearken to any manner of reason in the case, but was exceedingly enraged, and conceived an unappeasable displeasure against Prince Lhewelyn, which, however, he thought it convenient to conceal and dissemble for a time. Indeed, he was prejudiced against Lhewelyn ever since he had been vanquished and put to flight by him in the marches, so that the chief cause of King Edward's anger originally proceeded from a point of wounded honour, which this refusal of homage served to increase. To prosecute his revenge, which upon such a ground is commonly in princes very implacable, he in a short time came to Chester, meaning to recover by force what he could not obtain by fair means. From thence he sent to the Prince of Wales, requiring him to come and do him homage, which Lhewelyn either absolutely refusing or willingly neglecting to do, King Edward made ready his
A. D. 1277. army to force him thereto: but an accident occurred, which took off a great part of Lhewelyn's obstinacy; for at this time the Countess of Leicester, the widow of Simon Montford,

ford,* who lived at Montargis, a nunnery in France, sent over to Wales her daughter, the Lady Eleanor, (whom Lhewelyn extremely loved,) with her brother Aemerike, the former to be married to the prince according to the agreement made in the time of her father, Earl Montford: Aemerike, however, fearing to touch upon the coast of England, steered his course towards the islands of Scilly, where by the way they were all taken by four Bristol ships, and brought to King Edward, who received the lady very honourably, but committed her brother prisoner to the castle of Corff, whence he was afterwards removed to the castle of Shirburne. The king having obtained this unexpected advantage over Lhewelyn, began boldly to fall upon him, and so dividing his army into two battalions, led one himself into North Wales, and advanced as far as Ruddlan, where he strongly fortified the castle. The other he committed to Paganus de Camutiis, a great soldier, who, entering into West Wales, burned and destroyed a great part of the country. Then the people of South Wales, fearing that his next expedition would be levelled against them, voluntarily submitted themselves to the king, and did him homage, and then delivered up the castle of Ystratywy to Paganus.

Prince Lhewelyn, hearing of this, and finding that his own subjects forsook him, but more especially being desirous to recover his spouse the Lady Eleanor, thought it likewise advisable to submit, and therefore sued to King Edward for a peace, who granted it, but upon very severe conditions, as regarded Lhewelyn. The agreement consisted of ten articles, which were,—I. That the prince should set at liberty all prisoners that upon the king's account were detained in custody. II. That for the king's favour and good-will, he should pay 50,000 marks, to be received at the king's pleasure. III. That these four cantreds or hundreds, viz. Cantref Ros, where the king's castle of Diganwy stands,—Ryfonioc, where Denbigh,—Têgeingl, where Ruddlan,—Dyffryn Clwyd, where Ruthyn, stands,—should remain in the king's hands. IV. That the Lords Marchers should quietly enjoy all the lands they had conquered within Wales, excepting in the Isle of Anglesey, which was wholly granted to the prince. V. That in consideration of this island, the prince should pay 5000 marks in hand, with the reserve of 1000 marks yearly, to begin at Michaelmas; and in case the prince died without

* He married Eleanor, dowager of William Earl of Pembroke, and sister to Henry the Third. This Simon de Montford built a castle at Broadway, near Churchstoke, called Simon's Castle, now demolished.—Llewelyn's Manuscript.

without issue, the whole island should return to the king. VI. That the prince should come every year to England to pay his homage to the king for all his lands. VII. That all the barons of Wales, excepting five in Snowdon, should hold their lands and estates of the king, and no other. VIII. That the title of Prince should remain only for his life, and not descend to his successors, and after his death, the five lords of Snowdon should hold their lands only from the king. IX. That for the performance of these articles, the prince should deliver up for hostages ten persons of the best quality in the country, without imprisoning, disinheriting, and any time of redemption determined. X. And farther, that the king should choose twenty persons in North Wales, who, besides the prince, should take their oaths for the due performance of these articles; and in case the prince should swerve and recede from them, and upon admonition thereof not repent, they should forsake him, and become his enemies. The prince was obliged to suffer his brethren quietly to enjoy their lands in Wales, whereof David for his service was dubbed knight by the king, and had the Earl of Derby's widow given him in matrimony, and with her as a portion the castle of Denbigh in North Wales, besides 1000 pounds in lands. His other brother Roderic had lately escaped out of prison into England, and the younger, called Owen, was upon his composition delivered out of prison.

King Edward having imposed these severe conditions upon Prince Lhewelyn, and for a better security for the performance of them, built a castle at Aberystwith, returned very honourably into England; upon whose arrival, the people willingly granted him a subsidy of the twentieth part of their estates towards his charges in this war: but it seems very probable that Prince Lhewelyn submitted to these intolerable conditions, more upon the account of his amours, and to regain the Lady Eleanora out of the King of England's hand, than that he was apprehensive of any considerable danger he might receive by the English troops; for it is hardly conceivable, that a prince of such well-known conduct and valour, would so easily accept of such severe terms, and as it were deliver up his principality, when there was no necessity so to do, without resisting an enemy, whom he had frequently overcome, and forced to retire back with greater inequality than the English had at present over him: but the force of love works wonders, and in this case proved most irresistible, for to obtain his desire Lhewelyn did not scruple to forfeit his just right to his inveterate

inveterate enemies, and for ever to exclude his posterity from succeeding in their lawful inheritance. The next year A. D. 1278. therefore, he had his wish accomplished, and was married to Eleanora at Worcester, the king and queen, with all the nobility and persons of quality in England, honouring the wedding with their presence.*

This specious amity, and the peace lately concluded betwixt them, did not however last long, for the English governors in the marches and inland counties of Wales, presuming upon the prince's submission to the king, grievously oppressed the inhabitants of the country, with new and unheard-of exactions, and with intolerable partiality openly encouraged the English to defraud and oppress the Welsh. These insupportable practices moved the Welsh to go in a body to David Lord of Denbigh, to endeavour to procure a reconciliation between him and his brother the prince, that they both, being at unity, might easily deliver themselves and their country from the unmerciful tyranny of the English. David was not ignorant of 1281. the miseries of his countrymen, and therefore gladly submitted to be reconciled to his brother, with promise never to take part again with the King of England, but to become his utter enemy. This happy union being thus effected, David was chosen general of the army, with which he presently marched to Hawarden, and surprising the castle slew all that opposed him, and took Roger Clifford prisoner, who had been sent by King Edward as Justiciary into those parts.† From thence, being joined by the prince, he passed to Rhuddlan, and laid siege to the castle; but upon notice given that the king was marching to raise the siege, he deemed it convenient to withdraw, and to retire. At the same time Rhŷs ap Maelgon and Gruffydh ap Meredith ap Owen, with other lords of South Wales, took from the English the castle of Aberystwith, with divers others in that country, and plundered all the people thereabouts, who owned subjection to the crown of England. In the mean while John Peckham, Archbishop of Canterbury, perceiving how matters were likely to proceed between the king and the prince, and that the kingdom was completely involved in a war, he of his own will came to Prince Llewelyn‡ to endeavour a re-submission from him and

* On the 13th of October.—Holinshead, p 277.

† This occurrence took place on Palm Sunday. Henry de Knyghton de Event. Ang. p. 2464, says, that they slew all the masons, carpenters, and other workmen employed in the Justiciary fortresses.

‡ Rymer, vol. 2, p. 68.—About this time died the wife of Llewelyn (Eleanor de Montford) in child-bed.

and his brother David to King Edward, and so to put a stop to any further hostilities.

In order to this, he sent before-hand, to the prince and people of Wales, intimating to them, "That for the love he "bore to the Welsh nation, he undertook this arbitration, "without the knowledge, and contrary to the king's liking; "and therefore earnestly desired, that they would submit to "a peace with the English, which himself would endeavour "to bring to pass. And because he could make no long "continuance in those parts, he wished them to consider how "that if he should be forced to depart before any thing "was brought to a conclusion, they could hardly find ano- "ther who would so heartily espouse their cause; and "farther threatened, that in case they contemned and "derided his endeavours, he would not only instigate the "English army, now greatly strengthened and increased, to "fall upon them, but also signify their stubbornness to the "court and bishop of Rome, who esteemed and honoured "England beyond any other kingdom in the world. More- "over, he much lamented to hear of the excessive cruelty "of the Welsh, even beyond that of the Saracens and other "infidels, who never refused to permit slaves and captives "to be ransomed; which the Welsh were so far from "practising, that even some time they slew those for whose "redemption they received money. And whereas they "were wont to esteem and reverence holy and ecclesiastical "persons, they are now so far degenerated from devotion "and sanctity, that nothing is more acceptable to them than "war and sedition, which they had now great need to for- "sake and repent of. Lastly, he proposed that they would "signify to him, wherein and what laws and constitutions "of theirs were violated by the English, and by what means "a firm and a lasting peace might be established; which, if "they rejected, they must expect to incur the decree and "censure of the church, as well as endure the violent in- "roads and depredations of a powerful army."

To these, partly admonitions, and partly threatenings of the archbishop, Prince Lhewelyn returned an answer: "That he humbly thanked his Grace for the pains and "trouble he undertook in his and his subjects' behalf; and "more particularly, because he would venture to come to "Wales, contrary to the pleasure and good liking of the "king. And as for concluding a peace with him, he would "not have his Grace be ignorant, that with all readiness he "was willing to submit to it, upon condition that the king "would duly and sincerely observe the same. And though

"he

" he would be glad of his longer continuance in Wales, yet " he hoped that no obstructions would happen of his side, " why a peace (which of all things he most desired) might " not be forthwith concluded, and rather by his Grace's " procuring than any other's; so that there would be no " farther need of acquainting the Pope with his obstinacy, " nor moving the king of England to use any force against " him. And though the kingdom of England be under the " immediate protection of the see of Rome, yet when his " Holiness comes to understand the great and unsufferable " wrongs done to him by the English; how the articles of " peace were broken, churches and all other religious houses " in Wales were burned down and destroyed, and religious " persons unchristianly murdered, he hoped he would rather " pity and lament his condition, than with addition of " punishment increase and augment his sorrow. Neither " shall the kingdom of England be anywise disquieted and " molested by his means, in case the peace be religiously " observed towards him and his subjects. But who they " are that delight themselves with war and bloodshed, " manifestly appears by their actions and behaviour; the " Welsh being glad to live quietly upon their own, if they " might be permitted by the English, who coming to the " country, utterly destroy whatever comes in their way, " without regard either to sex, age, or religious places. " But he was extremely sorry that any one should be slain, " having paid his ransom; the author of which unworthy " action he did not pretend to maintain, but would inflict " upon him his condign punishment, in case he could be " got out of the woods and deserts, where as an outlaw he " lives undiscovered. But as to commencing a war in a " season inconvenient, he protested he knew nothing of that " till now: yet those that did so, do solemnly attest that to " be the only measure they had to save themselves, and that " they had no other security for their lives and fortunes, " than to keep themselves in arms. Concerning his sins " and trespasses against God, with the assistance of his " Grace, he would endeavour to repent of; neither should " the war be willingly continued by him, in case he might " save himself harmless; but before he would be unjustly " dispossessed of his legal property, he thought it but " reasonable, by all possible measures, to defend himself. " And he was very willing, upon due examination of the " trespasses committed, to make satisfaction and retribution " of all wrongs committed by him and his subjects; so that

" the

" the English would observe the same on their side; and " likewise was ready to conclude a peace, which he thought " was impossible to be established, as long as the English " had no regard to articles, and still oppressed his people " with new and unwarrantable exactions. Therefore seeing " his subjects were unchristianly abused by the king's " officers, and all his country most tyrannically harassed, " he saw no reason why the English, upon any fault of his " side, should threaten to bring a formidable army to his " country, nor the church pretend to censure him: seeing " also, he was very willing, upon the aforesaid conditions, " to submit to a peace. And lastly, he desired his Grace, " that he would not give the more credit to his enemies, " because they were near his person, and could deliver " their complaints frequently, and by word of mouth; for " they who made no conscience of oppressing, would not in " all probability stick to defame, and make false accusa- " tions; and, therefore, his Grace would make a better " estimation of the whole matter, by examining their ac- " tions rather than believing their words."

Prince Lhewelyn having to this purpose replied in general to the archbishop's articles, presented him with a formal detail of the several grievances which himself and others of his subjects had wrongfully and unjustly received at the hands of the English: and the archbishop having read over the statement of these grievances, and finding the Welsh to be upon good reason guiltless of that severe character, which by the malicious insinuations of the English he had conceived of them, went to King Edward, requesting him to take into consideration the wrongs and injuries done to the Welsh; which if he would not redress, at least he might excuse them from any breach of obedience to him, seeing they had such just reasons for what they did. The king replied, that he willingly forgave them, and would make reasonable satisfaction for any wrong done; and that they should have free access to declare their grievances before him; and then might safely depart, in case it would appear just and lawful they should. The archbishop upon this thought he had obtained his purpose; and therefore, without any stay, hastened to Snowdon, where the prince and his brother David resided, and having stated to them what the king had said, earnestly desired that they and the rest of the nobility of Wales would submit themselves, and by him be introduced to the king's presence. Prince Lhewelyn, after some time spent in conference and debate, declared that he was ready to submit to the king, with the reserve only

only of two particulars; namely, his conscience, whereby he was obliged to regard the safety and liberties of his people; and then the decency of his own state and quality. The king, however, understanding by the archbishop that the prince stood upon terms, positively refused to consent to any more treaties of peace, than that he should simply submit without any farther conditions. The archbishop had experience enough, that the Welsh would never agree to such proposals; and therefore desired his Majesty to give him leave, with the rest of the English nobility present, to confer and conclude upon the matter; which being granted, they unanimously resolved on the following articles, and sent them to the prince by John Wallensis, Bishop of St. David's:—

"I. The king will have no treaty of the four cantreds, "and other lands which he has bestowed upon his nobles; "nor of the isle of Anglesey.

"II. In case the tenants of the four cantreds submit "themselves, the king purposeth to deal kindly and honour- "ably with them; which we are sufficiently satisfied of, and "will, what in us lies, endeavour to further.

"III. We will do the like touching Prince Lhewelyn, "concerning whom we can return no other answer, than that "he must barely submit himself to the king, without hopes "of any other conditions."

These were the publick articles agreed upon by the English nobility, and sent to Prince Lhewelyn; besides which they sent some private measures of agreement, relating both to him and his brother David; promising, that in case he would submit, and put the king in quiet possession of Snowdon, his Majesty would bestow an English county upon him, with the yearly revenue of a thousand pounds sterling. And moreover, his daughter should be provided for suitable to her birth and quality, and all his subjects according to their estate and condition; and in case he should have male issue by a second wife, the aforesaid county and one thousand pounds should remain to his posterity for ever. As for David, the prince's brother, if he would consent to go to the Holy Land, upon condition not to return but upon the king's pleasure, all things should be honourably prepared for his journey with respect to his quality; and his child maintained and provided for by the king. To these the archbishop added his threats, that in case they did not comply, and submit themselves to the king's mercy, there were very severe and imminent dangers hanging

hanging over their heads; a formidable army was ready to make an inroad into their country, which would not only harass and oppress them, but in all probability totally eradicate the whole nation: besides which, they were to expect the most severe censure and punishment by the church.

All this could not force so unlimited a submission from the prince, but that he would stand upon some certain conditions; and therefore by letter he acquainted the archbishop, 'that he was with all willingness desirous to submit himself to the king; but withal, that he could not do it but in such a manner as was safe and honest for him. And because the form of submission contained in the articles sent to him, were by himself and his council thought pernicious and illegal for him to consent to, as tending rather to the destruction than the security of himself and his subjects, he could in no wise agree to it; and in case he should be willing, the rest of his nobility and people would never admit of it, as knowing for certain the mischief and inconveniency that would ensue thereby. Therefore he desired his lordship, that for a confirmation of an honest and a durable peace, which he had all this while earnestly laboured for, he would manage matters circumspectly, and with due regard to the following articles: for it was much more honourable for the king, and far more consonant to reason, that he should hold his lands in the country where he was born and dwelt in, than that, by dispossessing of him, his estate should be bestowed upon strangers.' With this was sent the general answer of the Welsh to the archbishop's articles, viz.—

"I. Though the king would not consent to treat of the "four cantreds, nor of the isle of Anglesey; yet unless "these be comprehended in the treaty, the prince's council "will not conclude a peace; by reason that these cantreds "have, ever since the time of Camber the son of Brutus, "properly and legally belonged to the Princes of Wales; "besides the confirmation which the present prince obtained "by the consent of the king and his father, at the treaty "before Cardinal Ottobonus, the Pope's legate, whose "letters patent do still appear. And more, the justice of "the thing itself is plainly evident, that it is more reason-"able for our heirs to hold the said cantreds for money, and "other services due to the king, than that strangers enjoy "the same, who will forcibly abuse and oppress the people.

"II. All the tenants of the cantreds of Wales do unani-"mously declare that they dare not submit themselves to "the

"the king's pleasure; by reason that he never from the "beginning took care to observe either covenant, oath, or "any other grant to the prince and his people; and because "his subjects have no regard to religion, but most cruelly "and unchristianly tyrannize over churches and religious "persons; and then, for that we do not understand our- "selves any way obliged thereunto, seeing we be the prince's "tenants, who is willing to pay the king all usual and "accustomed services.

"III. As to what is required, that the prince should "simply commit himself to the king's will, we all declare, "that, for the aforesaid reasons, none of us dare come, "neither will we permit our prince to come to him upon "those conditions.

"IV. That some of the English nobility will endeavour "to procure a provision of a thousand pounds a-year in "England; we would let them know, that we can accept "of no such pension; because it is procured for no other "end that the prince being disinherited, themselves may "obtain his lands in Wales.

"V. The prince cannot in honesty resign his paternal "inheritance, which has for many ages been enjoyed by his "predecessors, and accept of other lands among the Eng- "lish, of whose customs and language he is ignorant; and "upon that score, may at length be fraudulently deprived "of all by his malicious and inveterate enemies.

"VI. Seeing the king intends to deprive him of his "antient inheritance in Wales, where the land is more "barren and untilled, it is not very probable that he will "bestow upon him a more fruitful and an arable estate in "England.

"VII. As to the clause that the prince should give the "king a perpetual possession of Snowdon, we only affirm, "that seeing Snowdon essentially belongs to the principality "of Wales, which the prince and his predecessors have "enjoyed since Brute, the prince's council will not permit "him to renounce it, and accept another estate in England, "to which he has not equal right.

"VIII. The people of Snowdon declare, that though the "prince should give the king possession of it, they would "never own and pay submission to strangers; for in so "doing they would bring upon themselves the same misery "that the people of the four cantreds have for a long time "groaned under: being most rudely handled and unjustly "oppressed by the king's officers, as woefully appears by "their several grievances.

"IX.

"IX. As for David, the prince's brother, we see no "reason why against his will he should be compelled to "take a journey to the Holy Land; which if he happens to "undertake hereafter upon the account of religion, it is no "cause that his issue should be disinherited, but rather "encouraged.

"Now seeing neither the prince nor any of his subjects "upon any account whatsoever have moved and begun this "war, but only defended themselves, their properties, laws, "and liberties from the encroachments of other persons; "and since the English, for either malice or covetousness "to obtain our estates, have unjustly occasioned all these "troubles and broils in the kingdom, we are assured that "our defence is just and lawful, and therein depend upon "the aid and assistance of heaven; which will be most "cruelly revenged upon our sacrilegious and inhuman "enemies, who have left no manner of enormities, in re- "lation to God and man, uncommitted. Therefore your "Grace would more justly threaten your ecclesiastical "censures against the authors and abettors of such un- "paralleled villainies, than the innocent sufferers. And "besides, we much admire that you should advise us to "part with our own estates, and to live among our enemies; "as if, when we cannot peaceably enjoy what is our own "unquestionable right, we might expect to have quiet "possession of another man's: and though, as you say, it "be hard to live in war and perpetual danger; yet much "harder it is, to be utterly destroyed and reduced to no- "thing; especially when we seek but the defence of our "own liberties from the insatiable ambition of our enemies. "And seeing your Grace has promised to fulminate sentence "against all them that either for malice or profit would "hinder and obstruct the peace; it is evident who in this "respect are transgressors and delinquents; the fear and "apprehension of imprisonment and ejection out of our "estates, the sense of oppression and tyrannical govern- "ment, having compelled us to take up arms for the security "of our lives and fortunes. Therefore, as the English are "not dispossessed of their estates for their offences against "the king, so we are willing to be punished, or make other "satisfaction for our crimes, without being disinherited; "and as to the breach of the peace, it is notorious that they "were the authors, who never regarded either promise or "covenant, never made amends for trespasses, nor remedy "for our complaints."

When the archbishop saw there was no likelihood of a mediation,

mediation, and that it was impossible to conclude a peace as long as the Welsh stood upon conditions, he relinquished his pretended affection towards them, and denounced a sentence of excommunication against the prince and all his adherents. It was a subject of no small wonder, that a person of such reputed sanctity, who esteemed the several grievances done to the Welsh to be intolerable, should now condemn them for refusing an unlimited submission to the King of England; whereas he had already owned it to be unreasonable: but this ecclesiastical censure was only a prologue to a more melancholy scene; for King Edward, immediately upon its being issued, sent an army by sea to Anglesey, which, without any great opposition, conquered the island, and without any mercy put all that withstood him to the sword. From thence designing to pass over to the continent, he caused a bridge of boats covered with planks to be built over the Menai (being an arm of the sea which parteth the isle from the main land) at a place called Moel y don,* not far from Bangor, where the water is narrowest. The bridge being finished, which was so broad as that threescore men might pass it a-breast,† William Latimer, with a strong party of the best experienced soldiers, and Sir Lucas de Tancy, commander of the Gascoigns and Spaniards, whereof a great number served the king, passed over, but could discover no sign, nor the least intimation of an enemy: but as soon as the tide began to appear, and the sea had overflown each side of the bridge, the Welsh came down fiercely out of the mountains, and attacking the disheartened English, killed or drowned their whole number, excepting Latimer, who by the swimming of his horse got safely to the bridge. In this action, several worthy soldiers of the English side were lost; among whom were Sir Lucas de Tancy, Robert Clifford, Sir Walter Lyndsey, two brothers of Robert Burnel, Bishop of Bath, with many others; in all to the number of thirteen knights, seventeen young gentlemen, and two hundred common soldiers.‡ A little after, or as some say before, another engagement passed between the English and the Welsh, wherein the former lost fourteen colours, the Lords Audley and Clifford the younger being slain, and the king himself forced to retreat for safety to the castle of Hope.

While

* From the shore opposite this place, it is supposed, the German forces under Agricola passed over into Mona.

† Welsh Chron. p. 372. Holinshead, p. 281. Annales Waverleiensis, p. 235. Polidore Vergil, p. 324. Hen. de Knyghton de Event. Ang. p. 2464.

‡ The Lord Latimer, who commanded the English in this detachment, had the good fortune to recover the bridge by the stoutness of his horse. Holinshead, p. 281, says, that only 200 foot soldiers perished. Matth. Westminster, 176.

While these things passed in North Wales, the Earl of Gloucester and Sir Edmund Mortimer acted vigorously with their forces in South Wales; and fighting the Welsh at Lhandeilo Fawr, overthrew them with the loss of no considerable person, saying William de Valence the king's cousin-german, and four knights besides. Prince Lhewelyn was all this while in Cardigan, wasting and destroying all the country, and principally the lands of Rhŷs ap Meredith, who very unnaturally held with the King of England in all these wars. Being at length tired with exertion, he with a few men privately separated himself from his army, and came to Buelht, thinking to recreate and refresh himself there undiscovered: but coming to the river Wye, he met with Edmund Mortimer and John Gifford, with a considerable party of the people of that country of which Mortimer was the lord. Neither party ventured to assail the other, and Prince Lhewelyn with one servant only retired to a private grove in a neighbouring valley, there to consult with certain lords of the country, who had appointed to meet him. In the mean time Mortimer descended from the hill, with intention to fall upon Lhewelyn's men; which they perceiving, betook themselves to the bridge called Pont Orewyn,* and manfully defended the passage he was to cross. Mortimer could effect nothing against them, till he had gained the bridge, the river being impassable; and to force them to quit it, seemed altogether impracticable: but at last, the river was discovered to be fordable a little below, and so Helias Walwyn† was detached with a party through the river, who unexpectedly attacking the rear of the defendants, he easily forced them to leave the bridge, and save themselves by flight. Prince Lhewelyn during this time in vain expected the lords of Buelht, and in the end continued to wait so long, that Mortimer having passed over the bridge, surrounded the wood in which he was with armed men. The prince, perceiving himself to be betrayed, thought to make his escape to his men; but the English so closely pursued him, that before he could come in, one Adam Francton, not knowing who he was, run him through with his sword, being unarmed.‡ The Welsh still expected the arrival of their prince, and though but a few in number, so gallantly maintained their ground, that in spite of the far greater number of the English, they were not without much exertion put to flight. The battle being over, Francton

* Holinshead, p. 281. † Ibid. Welsh Chron. 373.
‡ Henry de Knyghton, p. 2464. Humffrey Lhuyd's Brev. p. 60. Welsh Chron. p. 374. Holinshead, p. 281.

Francton returned to plunder his dead;* but perceiving him to be the Prince of Wales, he thought that he had obtained a sufficient prize, and thereupon immediately cut off his head, and sent it to King Edward at Conway, who very joyfully caused it to be placed upon the highest pinnacle of the Tower of London. Thus fell this worthy prince, the greatest, though the last of the British blood, betrayed most basely by the lords of Buelht, and being dead, most unworthily dealt with by the King of England; who, contrary to all precedents, treated a lawful prince like a traitor, and exposed his crowned head to the derision of the multitude.

THE PRINCES OF WALES OF ENGLISH BLOOD.

PRINCE Lhewelyn and his brother David being so basely taken off, and leaving no one to lay any fair claim to the principality of Wales; King Edward, by a statute made at Rhuddlan, incorporated and annexed it to the crown of England, constituting several new and wholesome laws, as concerning the division of Wales into several counties, the form and manner of writs and proceeding in trials, with many others not very unlike the laws and constitutions of the English nation.† All this, however, did not win the affection of the Welsh towards him, for they would not by any means own him as their sovereign, unless he would consent to live and reign among them. They had not forgot the cruel oppressions and intolerable insolencies of the English officers; and, therefore, they positively told him, they would never yield obedience to any other than a prince of their own nation, of their own language, and whose life and conversation was spotless and unblameable. King Edward, perceiving the Welsh to be resolute and inflexible, and absolutely

Anno 12 Edw. I.

* This action happened on the 10th of December, 1282. Tradition says, that Lhewelyn caused his horse's shoes to be reversed in order to deceive his pursuers, as the snow was on the ground; but the circumstance was made known by the treachery of the smith. Thus died Lhewelyn ap Gruffydh, after a reign of 36 years, leaving only one daughter, who, with the daughter of his brother David, were confined in a nunnery in England, as an order was sent by Edward, seven years after the death of their parents, to Thomas de Normanville, to enquire minutely into the state and safe custody of the said princess. This daughter of Lhewelyn and of Eleanor de Montford, called Catherine Lackland, was sent by Edward, attended by her nurse, to be educated in England. She was afterwards married to Malcolm, Earl of Fife. Lhewelyn is also said to have had a son of the name of Madoc; but he certainly must have been illegitimate, as that prince had been only once married.—Mills's Catalogue of Honour, p. 310. It is most probable that David's daughter remained in England, and died a nun.

† Brady, vol. ii. p. 11. Matth. Westm. 177.

absolutely bent against any other prince, than one of their own country, happily thought of this politic, though dangerous expedient. Queen Eleanor was now great with child, and near the time of her delivery; and though the season was very severe, it being the depth of winter, the king sent for her from England, and removed her to Caernarvon castle, the place designed for her lying-in. When the time of her delivery was come, King Edward summoned all the barons and chief persons throughout all Wales to attend him at Rhuddlan, there to consult about the public good and safety of their country, and being informed that his queen was delivered of a son, he told the Welsh nobility, that whereas they had oftentimes intreated him to appoint them a prince, and he had at this time occasion to depart out of the country, he, according to their request, and to the conditions they had proposed, would name a prince for their obedience. The Welsh readily agreed to the motion, only with the same reserve, that he should appoint them a prince of their own nation. King Edward assured them, he would name such an one as was born in Wales, could speak no English, and whose life and conversation no body could stain; and the Welsh agreeing to own and obey such a prince, he named his own son Edward, just then before born in Caernarvon castle.

King Edward having by these means deluded the Welsh, and reduced the whole country of Wales to obedience, began to reward his followers with other men's properties, and bestowed whole lordships and towns in the midst of the country upon English lords, among whom Henry Lacy Earl of Lincoln obtained the lordship of Denbigh; and Reginald Grey, second son to John Lord Grey of Wilton, the lordship of Ruthyn. This Henry Lacy was son to Edmund Lacy, the son of John Lacy, Lord of Halton Pomfret, and constable of Chester, who married Margaret the eldest daughter, and one of the heirs of Robert Quincy Earl of Lincoln. This Henry Lacy Lord of Denbigh married the daughter and sole heir of William Longspear Earl of Salisbury, by whom he had issue two sons, Edmund and John, who both died young, one by a fall into a very deep well within the castle of Denbigh; and a daughter named Alicia, who was married to Thomas Plantagenet Earl of Lancaster, who in right of his wife was Earl of Lincoln and Sarum, Lord of Denbigh, Halton Pomfret, and constable of Chester. After his death, King Edward II. bestowed the said lordship of Denbigh upon Hugh Lord Spencer Earl of Winchester, upon whose decease, King Edward

Edward III. gave it, together with many other lordships in the marches, to Roger Mortimer Earl of March, in performance of a promise he had made, whilst he remained with his mother in France, that as soon as he should come to the possession of the crown of England, he would bestow upon the said Earl of March to the value of £1000 yearly in lands. But within a few years after, Mortimer being attainted of high treason, King Edward bestowed the said lordship of Denbigh upon Montague Earl of Salisbury; but it was quickly restored again to the Mortimers, in which house it continued till the whole estate of the Earls of March came with a daughter to the house of York, and so to the crown, Richard Duke of York, grandfather to Edward the Fourth, having married the sole daughter and heir of the house of Mortimer. Hence it continued in the crown to Queen Elizabeth's time, who, in the sixth year of her reign, bestowed the said lordship upon her great favourite Robert Earl of Leicester, who was then created Baron of Denbigh. After him it returned again to the crown, where it continued to the year 1696, when King William the Third granted a patent under the Great Seal to William Earl of Portland, for the lordships of Denbigh, Bromfield, and Yale. Some of the Welsh representatives, perceiving how far such a grant encroached upon the properties and privileges of the subject, disclosed their grievances to the honourable House of Commons, who, after some consideration, resolved (*nemine contradicente*) that a petition should be presented to his Majesty by the body of the whole House, to request him to recall his grant to the said Earl of Portland, which was accordingly done in the manner following:

"May it please Your Most Excellent Majesty,

"We, Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, "the knights, citizens, and burgesses in parliament assem- "bled; humbly lay before Your Majesty, That whereas "there is a grant passing to William Earl of Portland, and "his heirs, of the Manors of Denbigh, Bromfield, and "Yale, and divers other lands in the principality of Wales; "together with several estates of inheritance, enjoyed by "many of Your Majesty's subjects by virtue of ancient "grants from the crown:

"That the said manors, with the large and extensive "royalties, powers, and jurisdictions to the same belonging, "are of great concern to Your Majesty and the crown of "this realm: and that the same have been usually annexed "to the principality of Wales, and settled on the Princes of

" of Wales for their support: and that a great number of " Your Majesty's subjects, in those parts, hold their estates " by royal tenure, under great and valuable compositions, " rents, royal payments, and services to the crown and " princes of Wales; and have by such tenure great depend- " ance on Your Majesty and the crown of England; and " have enjoyed great privileges and advantages with their " estates under such tenure:

" We therefore most humbly beseech Your Majesty, to " put a stop to the passing this grant to the Earl of Port- " land, of the said manors and lands, and that the same " may not be disposed from the crown but by consent of " parliament: for that such grant is in diminution of the " honour and interest of the crown, by placing in a subject " such large and extensive royalties, powers, and jurisdic- " tions, which ought only to be in the crown; and will " sever that dependance which so great a number of Your " Majesty's subjects in those parts have on Your Majesty " and the crown by reason of their tenure, and may be to " their great oppression in those rights which they have " purchased and hitherto enjoyed with their estates; and " also an occasion of great vexation to many of Your " Majesty's subjects, who have long had the absolute " inheritance of several lands (comprehended in the said " grant to the Earl of Portland) by ancient grants from the " crown."

His Majesty's Answer.

" Gentlemen,

" I have a kindness for my Lord Portland, which he has " deserved of Me, by long and faithful services; but I " should not have given him these lands, if I had imagined " the House of Commons could have been concerned; " I will therefore recall the grant, and find some other way " of shewing My favour to him."

The lordship of Ruthyn continued in the possession of the Greys till the reign of Henry VII. when George Grey, Earl of Kent and Lord of Ruthyn, upon some bargain, passed the same over to the king; after which it was in the possession of some of the Earls of Warwick, and subsequently came to the family of Myddelton of Chirk Castle, in the county of Denbigh, in which family it still continues; being now enjoyed by Miss Myddelton, one of the sisters and co-heirs of the late Richard Myddelton, Esq.

Besides Henry Lacy and Reginald Grey, several other gentlemen of quality came at this time with King Edward to North Wales, who subsequently became men of great pos-

sessions

sessions and sway in the country, and whose posterity enjoy the same to this time: but he that expected to have the largest share in the distribution of these lordships and estates in Wales, was one Rhŷs ap Meredith, a Welshman, and one that, contrary to the allegiance sworn to his prince and his duty to his native country, had served the king of England in all these wars, and done the greatest hurt of any man to the interest of Prince Lhewelyn. For these great services done to King Edward, Rhŷs expected no less than to be promoted to the highest preferments; and the king, after the Prince of Wales's overthrow, dubbed him knight, but subsequently gave him little else, except fair words and great promises.

When Rhŷs, and all his neighbours and countrymen, had thus submitted themselves to the government of the king of England, it happened that the Lord Pain Tiptoft, warden of the king's castles which joined to Rhŷs's country, and the Lord Alan Plucknet, the king's steward in Wales, cited Sir Rhŷs ap Meredith,* with all the rest of the country, to the king's court; which, however, he refused to attend, alleging his ancient privileges and liberties, together with the king's promises to him. The aforesaid officers, therefore, pro- A. D. 1290.
ceeded against him according to law: whereupon Sir Rhŷs, being much annoyed to be thus served by those whose interest he had so warmly espoused, thought to be revenged of Pain Tiptoft, and the rest of the English. To that end, having drawn together some of his tenants and countrymen, he fell upon the said Pain Tiptoft; with whom several skirmishes afterwards happened, and several men were slain on both sides. King Edward was now gone to Arragon, to compose the differences between the kings of Arragon and Naples; but being informed of the disturbances which had happened in Wales between his ministers there and Sir Rhŷs ap Meredith, he wrote to the latter, requiring him to keep the peace till his return; at which time he would redress all grievances, and reduce matters to proper order. Sir Rhŷs, having already waited sufficiently upon the king's promises, and being now in a good condition to offend his enemies by force of arms, would not give over the enterprize he saw so promising, but, marching with his forces to his enemies' lands, burnt and destroyed several towns belonging to the English. Upon this, the king sent to the Earl of Cornwall, whom he had appointed his deputy during his absence, to march with an army into Wales, to repress the insolencies,

* Welsh Chron. p. 379. Henry de Knyghton de Event. Ang. p. 2465. Holinshead, p. 283.

insolencies, and to prevent any farther disorderly attempts of the Welsh. The Earl accordingly prepared an army, and went against Sir Rhŷs, whose army he quickly dispersed, and overthrew his castle of Drefolan, but not without the loss of some of his chief men: for as they besieged and undermined the said castle, the walls unexpectedly fell down, by which unluckly accident several of the English were bruised to death, among whom were the Lord Strafford, and the Lord William de Monchency. Within a while after, Robert Tiptoft, Lord Deputy of Wales, raised a very powerful army against Sir Rhŷs, and after a slaughter of 4000 of the Welsh, took him prisoner, and the Michaelmas following, at the king's going to Scotland, Sir Rhŷs was condemned and executed at York.*

A. D. 1293. The death of Sir Rhŷs did not put a final period to all the quarrels between the English and Welsh, for in a short time after there happened a new occasion of murmuring on the part of the Welsh, and for their upbraiding the government of the English over them. King Edward was now in actual war with the king of France; and to carry on this warfare, he required a liberal subsidy and supply from his subjects. This tax was with much resistance paid in divers places of the kingdom, but more especially in Wales, the Welsh being previously unused to such large contributions,

1294 violently resisted and exclaimed against it: but not being satisfied with maligning the king's command, they took their own captain, Roger de Puleston, who was appointed collector of the said subsidy, and hanged him up, together with divers others who abetted the collecting of the tax. Then the men of West Wales† chose Maelgon Fychan for their captain, and entering into Caermardhyn and Pembroke shires, they cruelly harassed all the lands that belonged to the English, and returned laden with considerable booty. The men of Glamorganshire and the inhabitants of the southern parts, chose one Morgan for their leader, and attacked the Earl of Gloucester, whom they forced to make his escape out of the country; and Morgan was put in possession of those lands which the ancestors of the Earl of Gloucester had forcibly taken away from Morgan's forefathers. On the one side, the men of North Wales set up one Madoc‡ related to the last Lhewelyn slain at Buelht, who having drawn together a great number of men, came to Caernarvon

* Agreeable to the new mode of punishment, by being drawn at the tail of a horse, and afterwards hanged and quartered.—Polidore Vergil, p. 236. Matth. Westm. p. 184, says, he was executed at Berwick.

† Pembrokeshire.

‡ He was an illegitimate son.—Mills's Catalogue of Honour, p. 310.

Caernarvon* and attacked the English, who in great multitudes had then resorted thither to a fair, slew a great many, and afterwards spoiled and ransacked the whole town. King Edward, being informed of these different insurrections and rebellions in Wales, and desirous to quell the pride and stubbornness of the Welsh, but most of all to revenge the death of his great favourite Roger de Puleston, recalled his brother Edmund Earl of Lancaster, and Henry Lacy Earl of Lincoln and Lord of Denbigh, who with a considerable army were ready to embark for Gascoign, and countermanded them into Wales. Being arrived there, they passed quietly forward, till they came to Denbigh, and as soon as they drew near unto the castle, upon St. Martin's day, the Welsh with great fury and courage confronted them, and joining battle, forced them back with a very considerable loss. Polidore Vergil says, (but upon what authority we are not informed,) that the Welsh obtained this victory rather upon the account that the English army was hired with such money as had been wrongfully taken out of the abbies and other religious places, so that it was a judgment from above, more than the force of the Welsh, that overcame the English army. Be the cause what it will, it is certain the English were vanquished, upon which account King Edward came in person to Wales, and kept his Christmas at Aberconway, where Robert Winchelsey Archbishop of Canterbury, being returned from Rome, came to him, and having done homage, returned honourably again to England. As the king advanced farther into the country, having but one part of his army with him, the Welsh attacked and took most of his carriages, which contained a great quantity of victuals and provision, so that the king with all his followers were constrained to endure many hardships, insomuch that at last water mixed with honey, and very coarse and ordinary bread, with the saltest meat, were accounted the greatest delicacies for his Majesty's own table. Their misery would have been much greater, had not the other part of the army come in time, because the Welsh forces had surrounded the king and part of his army, in the hope of reducing him to the utmost distress, because the water was so much risen, that the rest of his army could not get to him: but the water within a short time abating, the remainder of the army came in, whereupon the Welsh retired, and made their escape. One thing is very remarkable of King Edward during his distress at Snowdon, that when the army was reduced to very

* Matthew Paris, p. 190. Welsh Chron. p. 380.

very great extremity, a small quantity of wine was found, which they purposed to reserve for the king's own use: but he, to prevent any discontent, which might thereupon be raised among his soldiers, absolutely refused to taste thereof, telling them; 'That in time of necessity all things should be common, and as he was the cause and author of their distress, he would not be preferred before them in his diet.'

Whilst the king remained in Snowdon, the Earl of Warwick being informed that a great number of Welsh were assembled, and had lodged themselves in a certain valley betwixt two woods, chose out a troop of horse, together with some cross-bowmen and archers, and attacked them in the night-time. The Welsh being thus surprised and unexpectedly encompassed by their enemies, made the utmost haste to oppose them, and pitching their spears in the ground, and directing their points towards their enemies, endeavoured by such means to keep off the horse. But the Earl of Warwick having so disposed his forces, that between every two horses there stood a cross-bow, so annoyed the Welsh with their discharges, that the spearmen fell apace, and then the horse breaking easily in upon the rest, bore them down with a degree of slaughter that the Welsh had never before experienced. After this, King Edward, to prevent any more rebellious attempts of the Welsh, cut down all the woods in Wales, wherein, in any time of danger, they were wont to hide and save themselves. For a farther security, he repaired and fortified all the castles and places of strength in Wales, and built the castle of Beaumaris, in the isle of Anglesey, and having thus put all things in a settled posture, and punished those that had been the occasion of the death of Roger de Puleston, he returned with his army into England. As soon as the king had quitted Wales, Madoc, who, as it is said before, was chosen captain by the men of North Wales, gathered some forces together and came to Oswestry, which immediately surrendered to him: and then meeting with the Lord Strange near Knockin, who with a detachment of the marchers came to oppose him, he gave him battle, vanquished his forces, and ravaged his country. The like success he obtained in a second engagement against the marchers; but at last they brought together a very great number of men, and met Madoc marching towards Shrewsbury, upon the hills of Cefn Digolh, not far from Caurse castle,* where, after a bloody fight on both sides, Madoc was

* It is said by others that Madoc was delivered up to Edward by his own army.

was taken prisoner, and his army vanquished and put to flight. He was then sent to London, and there sentenced to remain in perpetual imprisonment in the Tower,* though others affirm that Madoc was never taken, but that after several adventures and severe conflicts, whereby the Welsh were reduced to great extremities, he came in and submitted himself to the king, who received him upon condition he would not desist from the pursuit of Morgan, captain of the men of Glamorganshire, till he brought him prisoner before him. Madoc having performed this, and the whole country being peaceable and undisturbed, several hostages from the chief nobility of Wales for their orderly and quiet behaviour were delivered to the king, who disposed of them by placing them in divers castles in England, where they continued in safe custody till the end of the war which was soon afterwards commenced with Scotland.

In the 29th year of King Edward's reign, the prince of Wales came down to Chester, and received homage of all the freeholders in Wales as follows:—Henry Earl of Lancaster, for Monmouth; Reginald Grey, for Ruthyn; Foulke Fitzwarren, for his lands; the Lord William Martyn, for his lands in Cemaes; Roger Mortimer, for his lands in Wales; Henry Lacy, Earl of Lincoln, for Rhos and Rhyfonioc; Robert Lord Montalt, for his lands; and Gruffydh Lord of Poole, for the lordship of Powys. At the same time paid their homage Tudor ap Grono, of Anglesey; Madoc ap Tudor, Archdeacon of Anglesey; Eineon ap Howel, of Caernarvon; Tudor ap Gruffydh; Llewelyn ap Ednyfed; Gruffydh Fychan, son of Gruffydh ap Iorwerth; Madoc Fychan d'Englefield; Llewelyn, Bishop of St. Asaph; and Richard de Pulesdon; which last-named person, in the twelfth year of King Edward, was constituted sheriff of Caernarvon for life, with the stipend of forty pounds sterling yearly. At the same place, Gruffydh ap Tudor, Ithel Fychan, Ithel ap Blethyn, with many more, did their homage. Then the prince came to Ruddlan, where the Lord Richard de Sutton, Baron of Malpas, did homage and fealty for the said barony of Malpas. Thence the prince removed to Conway, where Eineon bishop of Bangor, and David abbot of Maynan, did their homage; as did Lewis de Felton, son of Richard Felton, for the lands which his father held of the prince in Maelor Saesneg, or English Maelor. John Earl Warren swore homage for the lordships of Bromfield and Yale, and for his lands in Hope-Dale, A. D. 1301.

* Welsh Chron. p. 381.

Dale, at London, in the chapel of the Lord John de Kirkby, who was some time bishop of Ely; as also a while after, Edmund Mortimer, for his lands of Ceri and Cydewen.

Besides all these, there paid homage to the prince of Wales, at Chester, Sir Gruffydh Elwyd, son of Rhŷs ap Gruffydh ap Ednyfed Fychan, a stout and valiant gentleman, though not very fortunate, and as Florus says of Sertorius, he was *magnæ quidem, sed calamitosæ virtutis.* He was knighted by King Edward the First, upon his bringing the first news of the queen's safe delivery of a son at Caernarvon castle, the king holding then a parliament at Ruddlan. This Sir Gruffydh continued for some time on the best terms with the king of England, but observing at length the intolerable oppression and tyranny exercised by the English officers, especially by Sir Roger Mortimer, Lord of Chirk and Justice of North Wales, towards his countrymen the Welsh, he became so much concerned and discontented at these unwarrantable practices, that he broke out into open rebellion against the English; and the better to effect what he purposed, he treated with Sir Edward Bruce, brother to Robert, then king of Scotland, who had conquered Ireland, to bring or send over some forces to assist him in his design against the English.

Nothing, however, was concluded upon, and the whole treaty came to nothing: yet Sir Gruffydh, though without any hopes of assistance from the Scots, would not lay aside what he had once undertaken; and therefore, having gathered all the forces he could, he commenced a desperate warfare, and almost in an instant over-ran all North Wales and the Marches, seizing upon the various castles and strongholds through the country: but all this was to no purpose; for as the most violent storm is quickly over, so Sir Gruffydh's army became spent, and then being met with by a strong detachment of English, his party was easily discomfited, and himself taken prisoner.

A. D. 1322. The same year, being the 15th of the reign of King Edward the Second, his eldest son Edward, born at Windsor, in a parliament holden at York was created Prince of Wales, Duke of Aquitaine, and Earl of Chester. This prince succeeded his father in the kingdom of England, by the name of Edward the Third, one of the greatest and most powerful monarchs that ever sat upon the English throne.

1343. Edward, born at Woodstock, eldest son and heir to King Edward the Third, was created Prince of Wales upon the 12th

12th day of May, in the 17th year of his father's reign, being then about fourteen years of age. He was a prince of incomparable qualifications, but so much superior in martial affairs, that upon account of the several actions he was engaged in, and the circumstance of his wearing black armour, he was always mentioned by the name of Black Prince. He took John the French king prisoner at the battle of Poictiers, and in a most signal manner defeated the French army in the battle of Cressy. He did not live to enjoy the crown, but died one year before his father in the forty-sixth year of his age; no prince was in his life-time more beloved, nor after his death more lamented by the English nation; and had he lived to ascend the throne, no one doubted but that he would have exceeded, as to all qualifications, the most glorious renown of the greatest of his ancestors.

In the time of Edward the Third lived Sir Tudor Vaughan, ap Grono, descended lineally from Ednyfed Vaughan, a person as to estate, power, and interest, one of the chief in North Wales. Upon some motive, either of ambition or fancy, he assumed to himself the honour of knighthood, requiring all people to call and style him Sir Tudor ap Grono, as if he had prognosticated and foreseen, that out of his loins should arise those that should have power to confer that honour. King Edward, being informed of his unparalleled presumption, sent for Sir Tudor, and asked him with what confidence he durst invade his prerogative, by assuming the degree of knighthood without his authority: Sir Tudor replied, that by the laws and constitution of King Arthur, he had the liberty of taking upon himself that title, in regard he had those three qualifications, which whosoever was endued with, could by those laws claim the honour of a knight. First, he was a gentleman: secondly, he had a sufficient estate: and thirdly, he was valiant and adventurous; adding this withal, "If my valour and hardiness be doubted of, lo, here I throw down my glove, and for due proof of my courage, I am ready to fight with any man, whatever he be." The king, approving and liking well the man's boldness and resolution, was easily persuaded to confirm the honour of knighthood upon him. From this Sir Tudor was lineally descended Henry the Seventh, king of England, who was the son of Edmund Earl of Richmond, the son of Sir Owen Tudor, son to Meredith, the son of this Sir Tudor ap Grono.

After the death of the Black Prince, his son Richard, born at Bourdeaux in France, being but ten years of age, was

was created prince of Wales at Havering-at-Boure, on the
A. D. 1377. twentieth day of November, and in the fiftieth year of the reign of his grandfather, Edward the Third, whom he succeeded in the crown of England.

Henry born at Monmouth, son and heir to Henry the Fourth, King of England, upon the fifteenth of October, in the first year of his father's reign, was created prince of Wales at Westminster, who succeeded his father in the English crown by the name of Henry the Fifth.

Whilst Richard the Second reigned, one Owen* ap Gruffydh Fychan, descended of a younger son of Gruffydh ap Madoc Lord of Bromfield, excited great national interest. This Owen had been educated in one of the Inns of Court, where he became barrister at law, and was afterwards in very great esteem and credit, served King Richard, and continued with him at Flint Castle, till at length the king was taken by Henry Duke of Lancaster. Between this Owen and Reginald Lord Grey of Ruthyn there happened much difference touching a common lying between the lordship of Ruthyn, whereof Reginald was owner, and the lordship of Glyndyfrdwy in the possession of Owen, whence he borrowed the name of Glyndwr.† During the reign of Richard

* He was the son of Gruffydh Fychan ap Gruffydh o Ruddalt ap Madog Fychan ap Madog Glôf ap Gruffydh Varwn Gwyn Arglwydd Dinas Brân ap Madog ap Gruffydh Maelor ap Madog ap Meredydd ap Bleddyn ap Cynvyn, Prince of Powys. His mother was named Helen, and was the eldest daughter of Thomas ap Lhewelyn, a lineal descendant of Rhŷs ap Tewdwr, Prince of South Wales, by Eleanor Gôch, daughter of Philip ap Ivor, Lord of Iscoed, in Cardiganshire, by Catherine, daughter of the last Lhewelyn, by Eleanor, daughter of Simon de Montford.

† Mr. Pennant describes the estate to which Owen Glyndwr retired, as situate in the valley of the Dee, three miles below Corwen, and states, that the spirited chieftain was there visited by Iolo Gôch, and gives the Bard's description (in his invitation poem) of Sycharth, the seat of Glyndwr, as referring to the above estate: "Iolo Gôch," he says, "the celebrated poet of this period resided here for some time. He came, on a pressing invitation from Owain, who, knowing the mighty influence of this order of men over the ancient Britons, made his house, as Iolo says, a sanctuary for bards. He made them the instruments of his future preparations, and to prepare the minds of the people against the time of his intended insurrection. From Iolo I borrow the description of the seat of the chieftain when it was in full splendour. He compares it in point of magnificence to Westminster Abbey; and informs us, that it had a gate house, and was surrounded with a moat; that within were nine halls, each furnished with a wardrobe, I imagine filled with the clothes of his retainers, according to the custom of those days. Near the house, on a verdant bank, was a wooden house, supported on posts and covered with tiles: it contained four apartments, each subdivided into two, designed to lodge the guests. Here was a church, in form of a cross, with several chapels. The seat was surrounded with every convenience for good living and every support to hospitality; a park, warren, and pigeon house; a mill, orchard, and vineyard; and fish-pond, filled with pike and gwyniads—the last introduced from the lake at Bala; a heronry, which was a concomitant to the seat of every great man, supplied him and his guests with game for the sport of falconry. A place still remains that retains the name of his park: it extends about a mile or two beyond the scite of his house, on the left-hand of the valley. The vestiges of the house are small; the moat is very apparent; the measurement of the area it inclosed is

Richard the Second, Owen, as being a courtier, and in no mean esteem with the king, overpowered Reginald, who was neither so well befriended at court, nor so much beloved in the country as Owen was; but after King Richard had been deposed, the scene was altered, and Reginald being then better befriended than Owen, entered upon the common, which occasioned Owen, in the first year of Henry the Fourth, to make his complaint in parliament against him, for

46 paces by 26 paces. There is the appearance of a wall on the outside, which was continued to the top of a great mount, on which stood the wooden house. On the other side, but at a greater distance, I had passed by another mount of the same kind, called Hendom, which probably might have had formerly a building similar to that described by the bard. This, perhaps, was a station of a guard, to prevent surprise or insult from the English side. He had much to apprehend from the neighbouring fortress of Dinas Brân and its appendages, possessed by the Earl of Arundel, a strenuous supporter of the house of Lancaster. The bard speaks feelingly of the wine, the ale, the braget, and the white bread, nor does he forget the kitchen, nor the important officer the cook; whose life (when in the royal service) was estimated by our laws at a hundred and twenty-six cows. Such was the hospitality of this house, that the place of porter was useless, nor were locks or bolts known. To sum up all, no one could be hungry or dry at Sycharth, the name of the place. The bard pays all due praise to the lady of the house and her offspring."

A gwraig orau o'r gwragedd!
Gwynn y myd, o'i gwin a'i medd.
Merch eglur, Llin marchawglyw,
Urddol, hael, o reiol ryw.
A'i blant, a ddeuant bob ddau
Nythod têg o bennaethau.

His wife the best of wives!
Happy am I in her wine and metheglin.
Eminent woman of a knightly family,
Honorable, beneficent, noble.
His children come in pairs,—
A beautiful nest of chieftains.

The Reverend Walter Davies, in an interesting notice of the parish of Llansilin, states, that Mr. Pennant is incorrect as to the loco-position of the Sycharth of Iolo Gôch. He says that "Sycharth," the seat of Owain Glyndwr, described by Iolo Gôch, is in the parish of Llansilin, about 12 miles to the south by east of Glyndyfrdwy. As Owain was baron of two lordships, no one will deny his having a seat in each; one on the Dee, in Glyndyfrdwy, the other on the Cynllaith, in this parish. The only question to be decided is—'In which of the two mansions the chieftain resided when he was visited by the bard who wrote the poem so fully descriptive of the house and its appendages? The scite of his seat in Llansilin has been called Sycharth time out of mind, and is not known by any other name: the whole township is called Sycharth in every court leet, and in every parochial document. The scite of his residence in Glyndyfrdwy, or the moat surrounding it, is called Pwll Eingl. Since the publication of Mr. Pennant's tour through Wales in the year 1773, the idea may have been considerably circulated, that this spot at Pwll Eingl must have been the Sycharth described by Iolo Gôch, as it was never suspected that the illustrious chieftain had any other baronial mansion than that in the valley which gave him his surname of Glyndyfrdwy, and contractedly Glyndwr. At both places the scite is surrounded by a moat: on the Dee the area enclosed by it is 46 paces by 26 paces. "It is not on a tumulus but the ground is a little raised." At Sycharth the scite is a circle of 30 paces diameter, on the summit of an artificial tumulus, which is surrounded by a moat, six yards wide and about the same in depth from the top of the mound. To the west, bordering on the moat, is a *propugnaculum* (or rampart), about 300 paces

for thus divesting him of his right. No redress being found, the bishop of St. Asaph wished the lords to take care, that by thus slighting his complaint, they did not irritate and provoke the Welsh to an insurrection, to which some of the lords replied, that they did not fear those rascally barefooted people. Glyndwr therefore perceiving how his petition was slighted in parliament, and finding no other method to redress himself, having several friends and followers, put himself in arms against Reginald, and meeting him in the field, overcame and took him prisoner, and spoiled his lordship of Ruthyn. Upon this many resorted to him from all parts of Wales, some thinking him to be in as great favour now as in King Richard's days; others persuading him that now the time was come when the Britons by his means might again recover the honour and liberties of their ancestors. Reginald being thus kept prisoner, was very severely treated by Owen, to terrify him into compliance with his rebellious proceedings, and was not permitted to have his liberty until ten thousand marks were paid for his ransom, whereof six thousand were to be paid upon the feast of St. Martin, in the fourth year of Henry the Fourth; and he was also to deliver up his eldest son with some other persons of quality as hostages for the remainder. The king, at the humble suit of Reginald, seeing no other way for his enlargement, acceded thereto, authorising Sir William de Roos,

paces from point to point and about 30 paces over, for the purpose of defending the bridge over the moat when necessary; the whole on the summit of a natural round hillock shelving on all sides. "On the Dee, adjoining the scite of the palace, are two inclosures; one is called Parc Isa, the other Parc. The Parc Isa is small, but the other Parc is from 70 to 80 acres. In Cynllaith, the next house to Sycharth, on the south-east, is a place called Parc Sycharth, with a farm attached to it. This is at the southern end of an extensive wood, which occupies the escarpment of a rocky hill, called Parc Sycharth, and may be the parc cwning (the rabbit warren) of the bard. At the northern end of the same wood are a few houses called Pentre y Cwn, where the master of the buck-hounds to his barony resided, also his assistants. At Sycharth there is, on the rivulet Cynllaith, close at the foot of the hillock, whereon the palace stood, a mill, formerly called Melin Sycharth, but, owing to the grist-mill being lately converted into a fulling-mill, it is now called Pandy-Sycharth. On the Dee there are no traces of fish-ponds; at Sycharth, between the palace and the wood, the ichnography of two fish-ponds, one above the other, is still visible, though now much filled with an accumulation, in a state of transition from aquatic vegetables into an imperfect peat: this matter is several feet deep on the original base of the ponds. The water could not be very abundant; and what formerly supplied the ponds has now been diverted into other channels by the operation of draining. I trust that it will now be conceded by our neighbours on the banks of the Dee that Owain Glyndwr was, at least, an inhabitant of Cynllaith; especially at the time he was visited by Iolo Gôch, who, in after times, by his war songs, roused the hero and his countrymen to arms. How long his mansions stood at Glyndyfrdwy and Cynllaith after the fall of the owner is not known; as they were of timber, and not inhabited, they must soon have fallen to decay. There are no vestiges at either place. The scite at Sycharth has of late been ploughed many times, without having any relics discovered. A few nails and fragments of stones, bearing the marks of ignition, are the only remains that I saw. It is not probable that the house was burned, as the ploughed soil contains no fragments of charcoal.

Roos, Sir Richard de Grey, Sir William de Willoughby, Sir William le Zouche, Sir Hugh Huls, as also John Harvey, William Vaus, John Lee, John Langford, Thomas Payne, and John Elnestow, to treat with Owen and his council, and to determine as to what they should conceive most expedient and necessary to be done for his redemption: whereupon, they consenting to give the sum demanded by Glyndwr for his deliverance, the king gave licence to Robert Braybroke bishop of London, as also to Sir Gerard Braybroke the father, and Sir Gerard the son, then feoffees of divers lordships for this Reginald, to sell the manor of Herteleigh, in the county of Kent, towards the raising of that money: and the better to enable him to pay so great a fine, the king was pleased to grant, that whereas it was enacted, that such persons who were owners of lands in Ireland, and did not there reside, should for such their neglect forfeit two parts of the profits of them to the king; that notwithstanding this act, he should forfeit nothing for non-residence there during the term of six years next ensuing.

This success over the Lord Grey, together with the numerous resort of the Welsh to him, and the favourable interpretation of the prophecies of Merlin, which some construed to the advantage of Owen, made the swelling mind of Glyndwr overflow its banks, and gave him some hopes of restoring the dominion of this island again to the Britons. Wherefore he attacked the Earl of March, who met him with a numerous party of Herefordshire men; and when they came in contact, the Welshmen proved too powerful, and having killed above a thousand men of the English, they took the Earl of March prisoner. King Henry, upon this, was frequently requested to ransom the Earl, but to no purpose; for whether by reason that Mortimer had a better title to the crown than himself, he being the next heir in blood after King Richard, who was as yet living, or because of some other private reason, the king would never give ear to any proposal for his redemption, alleging that he wilfully threw himself into the hands of Glyndwr. About the middle of August, however, to correct the presumptuous attempts of the Welsh, the king went in person with a great army into Wales; but by reason of the extraordinary continuance of bad weather, which some attributed to the magic of Glyndwr, he was glad to return safe.

The Earl of March perceiving that he was not likely to obtain his liberty by the means of King Henry, either out of compliance, by reason of his tedious captivity, or on account of affection to the young lady, agreed to take part with Owen

Owen against the King of England, and to marry his daughter; with them joined the Earl of Worcester, and his brother the Earl of Northumberland, with his son the valiant Lord Percy; who conspiring to depose the King of England, in the house of the archdeacon of Bangor, by their deputies divided the realm amongst them, causing a tripartite indenture to be made, and to be sealed with each one's seal: by which covenant all that country lying between the Severn and the Trent, southward, was assigned to the Earl of March; all Wales, and the lands beyond the Severn, westward, were appointed to Glyndwr; and all from the Trent northward to the Lord Percy. This was done (as some said) through a foolish credit they gave to a vain allegorical prophecy, as though King Henry was the execrable mouldwarp, and they three the dragon, the lion, and the wolf which should pull him down, and distribute his kingdom among themselves. After they had exhibited articles of their grievances to King Henry, and divulged their reasons for taking up arms, they at length marched with all their power towards Shrewsbury to fight the king and his forces, depending mainly upon the arrival of Glyndwr and his Welshmen: but the matter was gone so far, that whether he came in or no they must fight, and so both armies being confronted, the king's party prevailed, young Percy being slain upon the spot, and besides most of the English of quality, Douglas, who with a party of Scotch had come to the aid of the confederates, was taken prisoner, but afterwards honourably set at liberty by the intercession of the prince of Wales. In the mean time the Earl of Northumberland was marching forward with a great party from the North; but the king having settled matters about Shrewsbury, proceeded to York, and sending to him to lay down his arms, he voluntarily submitted and dismissed his forces. Then the king, returning from Yorkshire, determined to pass over to North Wales to chastise the presumptuous practices of the disobedient Welsh, who, after his departure from Shrewsbury, had made inroads into the marches, and done much injury to his English subjects; but other business of greater consequence intervening, he detached his son the prince of Wales, who took the castle of Aberystwyth, which was soon again retaken by Owen Glyndwr, who placed in it a strong garrison of Welshmen. In the battle of Huske, fought upon the fifteenth of March, the Welsh received a very serious blow from the prince's men, Glyndwr's son being taken prisoner, besides fifteen hundred others taken and slain. After this,

we

hear little of Glyndwr, excepting that he continued to vex and harass the English upon the marches, to the tenth year of King Henry's reign, when he is stated to have miserably ended his life; being, as Hollingshed reporteth, towards his latter days, driven to such extremity, that, despairing of all comfort, he fled and lurked in caves and other the most solitary places, fearing to shew his face to any creature, till at length being starved for hunger and lack of sustenance, he miserably ended his life.*

These rebellious practices of Glyndwr, highly exasperated King Henry against the Welsh, insomuch that several unmerciful laws were enacted, relating to Wales, which in effect destroyed all the the liberties of the Welsh subjects. They were made incapable of purchasing any lands, or to be elected members of any county or borough, and to undertake any office, whether civil or military, in any town incorporated. If any suit at law happened betwixt an Englishman and a Welshman, the former could not be convicted, but by the sentence of an English judge, and the verdict of an English jury; besides that any Englishman who married a Welshwoman was thereby forthwith disfranchised from all the liberties of an English subject. It was further enacted, that no Welshman should be in possession of any castle, or other place of strength, and that no victuals or armour should be brought into Wales, without a special warrant from the king or his council; and further, that no Welshman was capable of undertaking the office of justice, chamberlain, sheriff, or any other place of trust in any part of Wales, notwithstanding any patent or license heretofore given to the contrary: these, with many other most rigorous and unjust laws, particularly that forbidding any Welshman to bring up his children to learning, or to bind them apprentices to any trade or occupation, were enacted by the king against the Welsh; so that nothing appeared to satisfy his displeasure, but that a whole nation should be wrongfully oppressed, for the fault and miscarriage of one person. It might have been supposed that this was not a politic method of securing a nation in its allegiance, which, upon slighter affronts, had been accustomed to defend its privileges; and, therefore, the quiet disposition of the Welsh about this time has been attributed to the moderation of Henry the Fifth, who within a little time succeeded his father in the crown of England.

Contemporary

* There is, however, good authority for believing that Owain, passing his time in seclusion, ended his days with one of his daughters, who was married and resided in the marches of South Wales, on the Herefordshire border.

Contemporary with Glyndwr was Sir David Gam, (so called because he had but one eye,) the son of Lhewelyn ap Howel Vaughan, of Brecknock, by Mawd, the daughter of Iefan ap Rhŷs ap Ifor of Elvel. He was a staunch partizan of the Duke of Lancaster, and for that reason became a mortal enemy to Glyndwr, who having been educated, as before stated, at one of the inns of Court, was preferred to the service of King Richard the Second, who, as Walsingham says, made him his *Scutifer*, or shield-bearer: and being informed that his master Richard was deposed and murdered, and withal being provoked by several wrongs and affronts done him by his neighbour the Lord Grey, of Ruthyn, whom King Henry greatly countenanced, and looking upon Henry as an usurper, he caused himself to be proclaimed Prince of Wales. To give a better colour to the matter, he feigned himself to be descended, by a daughter, from Lhewelyn ap Gruffydh, the last prince; whereas, in truth, he came paternally but from a younger brother of the house of Powys: and, as ambition has no moderation, so Glyndwr for a time acted the part of a prince, and summoned a parliament to meet at Machynlleth,* whither the nobility and gentry of Wales appeared, and among the rest Sir David Gam, but not upon the same design with the rest, for it was his intention in this meeting to murder Glyndwr: but the plot being discovered, and Sir David secured, he would have been immediately executed, had not Glyndwr's best friends, and the greatest supporters of his cause, pleaded in his behalf, by whose intercession he was prevailed upon to grant Sir David both his life and liberty, on condition he would ever after continue true and loyal to him. Sir David promised very loudly, but with the reservation never to perform; for as soon as he came to his own country, where he was a person of very considerable sway and interest, he greatly annoyed and molested those that in any way favoured or adhered to Glyndwr. While Sir David lay in prison at Machynlleth, for his attempt against Owen's life, this Englyn was made upon him.

Dafydd Gam dryglam dreigl, iti yn wan frwydr,
Fradwr Rissiart Bhrenin,
Llwyr y rhoes Diawl (hawn hwyl Flin
Y fath ystad) ei fys ith Din.

i. e. David Gam thou wilt be a wanderer and an ill end will

* The building, now converted into a stable, in which this memorable synod was convened, is still to be seen.

will come to thee. Thou wilt be weak in battle, thou traitor to King Richard. So eagerly vexatious in thy station that the devil wholly entered thy heart.

Glyndwr having received information that Sir David Gam, contrary to the promise he had made at his release, endeavoured by all means to destroy his interest among the Welsh, entered the marches, and, among other tokens of his indignation, burned the house of Sir David, and as the report goes, calling to him one of Sir David's tenants, spake to him thus merrily in verse:—

O Gweli di wr côch Gam
Yn ymofyn y Girnigwen
Dywed ei bod hi Tan y Lan
A nôd y glo ar ei Phenn.

i. e. If thou seest a red-haired, squint-eyed* man looking for the lost sheep, tell him she is below the hill, and he may know her as she is marked with fire.

But Sir David had the good fortune to escape his vengeance, and was constrained to retire to England, where he lived for the most part at court, till the death of Glyndwr.

When King Henry the Fifth went with an army to France against the French king, Sir David Gam brought into his service a numerous party of stout and valourous Welshmen, who upon all occasions evinced their courage and resolution. In the battle of Agincourt, news being brought to the king that the French army was advancing towards him, and that they were exceedingly numerous, he detached Captain Gam, to observe their motions, and to review their number. The Captain, having narrowly eyed the French, found them to be twice the number of the English, but not being in the least dismayed at such a multitude, he returned to the king, who enquiring of him what the number of the French might be, he made answer, "An't please you my liege, they are enough to be killed, enough to run away, and enough to be taken prisoners." King Henry was well pleased, and much encouraged with this resolute and undaunted answer of Sir David, whose tongue did not express more valour than his hands performed: for in the heat of battle, the king's person being in danger, Sir David charged the enemy with that eagerness and masculine bravery, that they were glad to give way, and thus secured the king, though with the loss of much blood, and also with the loss of his life, himself

* Squint-eyed is Gam in Welsh, from which he took his name, and his family continues it to this day, and all squint with one eye. Sir David Gam was the person whom Shakspeare described in the character of Captain Fluelin.—Note to the original edition.

himself and his son-in-law Roger Vaughan, with his kinsman Walter Llwyd of Brecknock, having received their mortal wounds in that encounter. When the king heard of their condition, and that they were past all hope of recovery, he came to them, and in recompense of their good services, knighted them all three in the field, where they soon after died; and thus ended the life, but not the fame, of the signally valiant Sir David Gam.

Edward of Westminster, the sole issue of that unfortunate prince King Henry the Sixth, by Margaret, the daughter of Rayner Duke of Anjou, and titular king of Jerusalem, Sicily, and Arragon, was created Prince of Wales, in a parliament held at Westminster on the fifteenth day of March, in the thirty-second year of his father's reign. When the battle was lost at Tewkesbury, this young prince purposed to have made his escape by flight, but being unfortunately taken, and brought to the presence of King Edward the Fourth, who then sat upon the throne, he made such resolute and unexpected replies that he smote him on the mouth with his gauntlet; and then his brother Richard (the Crook-back) ran him into the heart with his dagger.*

Edward, born in the Sanctuary at Westminster, the eldest son of King Edward the Fourth, was, after his father's expulsion out of England, in the forty-ninth year of King Henry the Sixth, created Prince of Wales and Earl of Chester, in the eleventh year of his father's reign. On the death of Edward the Fourth, this young prince being then at Ludlow, in the marches of Wales, was immediately sent for to London, and proclaimed king of England, but never lived to be crowned; for his uncle Richard Duke of Gloucester, who was appointed his protector, most villainously procured that he should be murdered, together with his brother the Duke of York, and afterwards was himself proclaimed and crowned king.

Edward the Fourth, in his wars against Henry the Sixth, was very much assisted by the Welsh; in recompense of which service he purposed to reform matters in Wales, so that the intolerable oppression which they had hitherto endured should be removed: to which end he meant to establish a court within the said Principality, and constituted John bishop of Worcester president of the prince's council in the marches; who, together with Anthony Earl of Rivers, sat in the town-hall of Shrewsbury, and constituted certain ordinances for the public good and tranquillity of

* This account, the reader will observe, differs from that of the English historians in a slight degree, inasmuch as they make the Duke of Clarence and others participators in this murderous tragedy.

of that place: but the matter proceeded no farther, for the troubles and disquietness of his kingdom coming heavily upon him, and the brevity of his reign after his establishment not permitting, he was forced to leave that to others which he had himself intended to bring about.

Edward, born at Middleham, near Richmond, in the county of York, the only son of King Richard the Third, was at ten years of age created by his father Prince of Wales, but he died soon after.

Arthur, the eldest son of King Henry the Seventh, born at Winchester, was in the seventh year of his father's reign created Prince of Wales. About the fifteenth year of his age, being then newly married to Katherine the Infanta of Spain, he was sent by his father into Wales, that by his presence he might the better keep that country in awe.* With him King Henry sent Dr. William Smith, afterwards made Bishop of London, as president of his council, together with Sir Richard Pool, his chamberlain, Sir Henry Vernon, Sir Richard Crofts, Sir David Philip, Sir William Udal, Sir Thomas Englefield, Sir Peter Newton, and others, to be his counsellors and directors in his management of affairs; but the prince had not continued long there before he fell sick at his castle at Ludlow, of which indisposition he shortly after died, and was buried with great solemnity in the cathedral church of Worcester. The creating of his brother Henry (Duke of York) Prince of Wales in his stead was deferred for about the space of a month, to discover whether the Lady Katherine was with child by Prince Arthur: but when it was ascertained that she had not conceived, on the eighteenth day of February, in the nineteenth year of his father King Henry the Seventh's reign, Henry Duke of York was created Prince of Wales.

King Henry the Seventh, being by his grandfather Owen Tudor of Welsh descent, and having sufficiently experienced the affection of the Welsh towards him, first of those who, upon his first landing, opportunely joined him under Sir Rhŷs ap Thomas, and then of those, who under the command of Sir William Stanley, Lord of Bromfield, Yale, and Chirkland, aided him in Bosworth Field, could not in honour and equity but bear some regard to the miserable state and condition of the Welsh under the English government: and therefore this prudent prince, finding the calamities of the Welsh to be insupportable, and seeing what grievous and unmerciful laws were enacted against them by his predecessors, took occasion to redress and reform the same,

* Wokins, p. 789.

same, and granted to the Welsh a charter of liberty and immunity, whereby they were released from the cruel oppression which, since their subjection to the English government, they had most cruelly sustained. Seeing also that the birth and quality of his grandfather (Owen Tudor) was called in question, and that he was by many upbraided of being of mean and ignoble parentage, King Henry directed a commission to the Abbot of Lhan Egwest, Dr. Owen Pool, Canon of Hereford, and John King, Herald at Arms, to make inquisition concerning the pedigree of the said Owen; who coming to Wales, made a diligent enquiry into this matter, and by the assistance of Sir John Leyaf, Guttyn Owen (Bardh), Gruffydh ap Lhewelyn ap Efan Fychan, and others, in the consultation of the British books of pedigrees, they drew up an exact genealogy of Owen Tudor, which upon their return they presented to the king.

Edward, son to Henry the Eighth by the Lady Jane Seymour, his third wife, was born at Hampton Court on the twelfth of October; and upon the eighteenth of the said month was created Prince of Wales, Duke of Cornwall, and Earl of Chester.

King Henry the Seventh had already abrogated those intolerable laws which the former kings of England, particularly Henry the Fourth, had made against the Welsh; and now, King Henry the Eighth, willing to make a complete reformation of what his father had wisely begun, thought it necessary, for the good and tranquillity of both nations, to make the Welsh subject to the same laws and the same form of government with the English. He understood that the usual hostilities and depredations were still continued and kept up by both sides upon the borders; and though his father had eased the yoke of the Welsh, yet he perceived that it contributed but little towards the abolition of that inveterate and implacable envy and animosity which raged in the marches: therefore, to remedy this otherwise unavoidable evil, he concluded that the only effectual method was to incorporate the Welsh with the English, so that they, being subject to the same laws, might equally fear the violation of them. Accordingly, in the twenty-seventh year of his reign, an Act of Parliament passed for that purpose, which, together with another Act in the thirty-fifth year of his reign, made a complete incorporation of the Welsh with the English, which union has had that blessed effect that it has in course of time dispelled all those unnatural differences which were previously so frequent and irreconcilable.

A.D. 1536.

When the Reformation was first established in Wales it was

was a great inconvenience to the common people, who were nearly all unacquainted with the English tongue, that the Bible was not transtated into their native language. Queen Elizabeth was soon aware of the inconvenience which the Welsh suffered for want of such a translation; and therefore, in the eighth year of her reign, an Act of Parliament was passed, whereby the Bishops of Hereford, St. David, St. Asaph, Bangor, and Llandaff, were ordered to take care that the Bible, containing the Old and New Testaments, with the Book of Common Prayer, and Administration of the Sacraments, should be truly and with precision translated into the British or Welsh tongue, and that the same so translated, being by them perused and approved, should be printed to such a number at least, as that every cathedral, collegiate and parish church, and chapel-of-ease, within those dioceses where that tongue was vulgarly spoken, might be supplied before the first of March, in the year 1576: and from that time forward that the Welsh Divine Service should be used in the British tongue in all places throughout those dioceses, where the Welsh was commonly spoken, after the same manner as it was used in the English tongue; and that the charge of procuring the said Bible and Common Prayer should be equally apportioned betwixt the parson and the parish, each of those two parties being obliged to pay one-half of the expense; and that the price of the book should be set by the aforesaid bishops, or by three of them at the least. This act of parliament was not punctually observed; for the Old Testament was wholly omitted, and only the New, with the Book of Common Prayer and Administration of the Sacraments, then translated, which translation was chiefly owing to Richard bishop of St. David, who was assisted by William Salusbury, a perfect critic in the Welsh tongue, and one excellently conversant in all British antiquities: but in the year 1588, Dr. William Morgan, first bishop of Llandaff, and then of St. Asaph, undertook the translation of the whole Bible; and by the help of the Bishops of St. Asaph and Bangor, Gabriel Goodman, Dean of Westminster, David Powel, D. D. Edmund Price, Archdeacon of Merioneth, and Richard Vaughan, he effectually finished it. This was of great advantage to the Welsh, who could now read the whole Scripture in their own native tongue; by which means they received a clearer demonstration of the corruptions of the Church of Rome, when they saw many of their principles apparently contradicting, and others not very firmly founded upon, the Holy Scriptures: and on the other hand they perceived

A. D. 1569.

perceived the necessity and advantage of the Reformation, for they easily discovered that the whole doctrine of the Church of England was sound and orthodox, and that they were now happily delivered from that popish slavery under which their forefathers ignorantly laboured; and therefore, being convinced of the truth of their religion, they became, and continued generally, very strict adherents to, and firm observers of, the doctrine and discipline of this church.

Here, by the bye, I cannot but observe what a reverend writer has lately insinuated, relating to the Christian religion planted in Wales: for that learned person, in his funeral sermon upon Mr. Gouge, would fain induce the world to believe that Christianity was very corrupt and imperfect among the Welsh, before it was purified by that (whom he terms apostolical) man: whereas it is notoriously evident, that since the Reformation was settled in that country, and the Bible, with the Book of Common Prayer, was translated into the Welsh tongue, no place has been more exact in keeping to the strict rubrick and constitution of the Church of England, both as to the substance and form of worship. But what may more truly be attributed to Mr. Gouge is, that since his travels into Wales, and the propagating of his doctrine among the ignorant of that country, dissent, which before had scarcely taken root, hath as it were daily increased.

Henry, eldest son of King James the First, being arrived at the age of seventeen years, was created prince of Wales on the thirtieth of May, in 1610, but he dying of a malignant fever about two years after, his brother Charles, then fifteen years of age, was created Prince in his room in 1615. This new creation was celebrated in the town of Ludlow, and in the city of London, with great triumph; and the more to honour this solemnity, the king made twenty-five Knights of the Bath, all of them peers or the sons of peers; and the Inns of Court, to express their joy, elected out of their body forty of the principal gentlemen to perform solemn justs and barriers, as in the tournaments of former times.

Charles, eldest son of King Charles the First, by Henrietta Maria, daughter to King Henry the Fourth of France, was born May 29, 1630, and afterwards created Prince of Wales.

Subsequent to this period, the title of Prince of Wales has been borne by several of the British Princes when next in succession to the Throne; and having been borne by our late most gracious Sovereign King George the Fourth, until he

he commenced his reign on the death of his revered father, which took place the 29th day of January, 1820, it has since that period remained in abeyance.

Since the happy incorporation of the Welsh with the English, the history of both nations as well as the people is united; and therefore I shall not repeat that which is so copiously and frequently delivered by the English historians; but shall conclude with Dr. Heylyn,—"*That since the Welsh have been incorporated with the English, they have shewed themselves most loyal, hearty, and affectionate subjects of the state; cordially devoted to their king, and zealous in defence of their laws, liberties, and religion, as well as any of the best of their fellow-subjects.*"

TOPOGRAPHICAL NOTICES,

&c.

CAERNARVONSHIRE.

THIS county is the most rugged and truly alpine district in Wales: it is surrounded by the sea on all sides except the east, where it joins Denbighshire, and a part of the south contiguous to Merionethshire. Its figure is very irregular, with a great peninsulated point running out to the south-west or Irish sea, and separated from Anglesea by the isthmus of Menai. The general surface of the country is very mountainous, and the vales for the most part narrow, with hills rising very abruptly from the skirts of small vallies into stupendous mountains, intersecting each other in all directions, affording, however, an ample sustenance for numerous herds of cattle and sheep, which are fed in great numbers on the mountains, being attended by their owners, who for the season reside in temporary huts, wherein they make butter and cheese, which, with a little oatmeal and the produce of the dairies, constitute their daily food. The prospects around are rude and savage in the extreme, yet not entirely destitute of some mixture of beauty, particularly the vales, which admit the common varieties of wood, water, and meadow. In some of the lakes are found the char, and the gwiniad (another alpine fish), with many rare vegetables found on the most elevated parts of Snowdon. Some parts of the county afford lead and copper, and some excellent quarries of stone for hones and slates, while other parts are celebrated for the produce of oats, barley, and black cattle, of which vast numbers are exported annually; together with great quantities of fish, especially herrings, which are caught on the shores of the county.

CAERNARVON, OR CAER YN ARVON,

Is the ancient Segontium of the Romans, mentioned by Antoninus as a Roman station in the time of Constantine. Matthew Paris informs us that the body of Constantius, the father of that emperor, was found buried there in 1283. The town is situate in the parish of Llanbeblig, a church dedicated to Saint Peblic, who lived about the middle of the fifth century; and here is a new chapel built, dedicated to Saint Mary. The church is a large building in the form of a cross, and is situate near the walls of Old Segontium, a short distance to the south-east of the town. Richard the Second bestowed this

church, and the chapel of Caernarvon, on the nuns of Saint Mary's in Chester, in consequence of their poverty.* In the church is an altar-tomb to the memory of William Griffith, Esq. son of Sir William Griffith, of Penrhyn, and his wife Margaret, daughter of John Wynn ab Meredith, Esq. of Gwydir. The figures are in white marble, and very well sculptured: he died Nov. 28, 1587, and she in 1593, when the tomb was erected by her father. It is probable that the large house called Plâs Mawr, in the town of Caernarvon, was built by him, as the initials of his name, W. G. and those of his wife, M. G. are over the south-west door. It appears that Caer-Segont (or Old Caernarvon) was anciently the seat of the Princes of Wales, for King Cadvan resided here in 650, where also Cadwallo his son, who was so great a scourge to the Saxons, and his grandson Cadwaladr, successively resided. Caradog also, and his son Octavius, who was made Governor of Britain by Constantine the Great, resided here prior to that time; and Helen, wife of the Emperor Maximus,† and daughter of the said Octavius, was born at Caer-Segont. Publicius, the founder of Llanbeblig, is said to have been the son of the said Maximus and Helen; and Cynan Meriadog, cousin to the said Helen, succeeded his uncle Octavius as Duke of Cornwall. It is also said that Prince Roderic resided here in A. D. 750. It is probable that Old Caer yn Arvon, prior to the time of Edward the First, was situate near Hên Waliau.

The town is built in the form of a square, and enclosed on three sides by an embattled stone wall: the streets are at right angles with the principal one, in which is the town hall. The chief object which attracts our attention is the noble castle, the most magnificent in Wales, built by Edward the First, and probably the town at the same time, with the revenues of the see of York, then vacant. The castle defends the town on the south, and has a narrow deep ditch in front on the north side: in its west wall are three round towers, and two more on each side, with a narrow gate or entrance, over which is placed a bareheaded figure with flowing locks, holding in his left hand a sword, which he draws with his right, or perhaps is sheathing, in allusion to the termination of the Welsh war, and a defaced shield is under his feet. This gate leads to a narrow oblong court: at the west end is a polygon tower, with three hexagon towers above, on the embattlements of which are eagles, whence it had the name of Eagle Tower, which is the admiration of all lovers of architecture: the eagles on the tower are supposed to be Roman, and to have been found at Segontium by Edward. John de Havering was the first governor, and Adam de Wetenhall succeeded. The constable and the captain had twenty-four soldiers allowed them for the defence of the place: this small garrison was only during peaceable times. In Cromwell's time, Captain Swanley, a parliament man, took the town. In

* Pennant, and Sebright MSS. † Called by the Welsh Macsen Wledig.

In 1644 the royalists retook the place; finally General Mytton and Colonels Mason, Carter, and Twisleton, retook it in 1648, when Sir John Owen was defeated near Llandegai, after which North Wales entirely submitted to the parliament. In the Eagle tower before alluded to is a room eleven feet by seven, in which the unfortunate Edward the Second, the first English Prince of Wales, was born on the 25th of April, 1284. A passage only separates this room from another semi-circular apartment, called the Nursery. On the south side, next the river Seiont, are three hexagon and octagon towers, with three others on the north; to the east is a magnificent entrance, with a lofty round arch, and towers communicating all round by noble galleries, several of which are surrounded by small towers, peculiar to this castle. In the north-east corner is a deep well, now nearly filled up, having near it a round tower, formerly a dungeon. Such is the external delineation of Caernarvon castle, founded on a rock, and now almost entire. The outer walls are of white hewn stone, with an edging of red about the corners and windows, which have a very pretty effect. There were several English gentlemen introduced into this town as governors and officers of the castle, by the Kings of England, after the conquest, a few of whose posterity still remain. Of this number, no doubt, were the Spicers, Pulestons, Bowmans, and Bolds; and the old houses where they lived still go by their respective names, such as Plâs Pilstwn, the present King's Head inn; Plâs Bowman, the corner of Church-street; and Plâs Spicer, in Church-street. The town of Caernarvon is increasing in size and opulence: two large chapels and several new streets have lately been built; the Sportsman's Arms Inn and the New Hotel afford every accommodation of elegance and convenience. The corporation, about the year 1808, built an elegant town-hall and market-house in the centre of the town. Very commodious hot and cold baths, with reading rooms attached, have been recently erected by the Marquis of Anglesea, who is mayor of the town, and constable of the castle for life. This town is much frequented by strangers in the summer season. On the outside of the town walls is a broad and pleasant terrace along the side of the Menai, extending from the quay to the north end of the town walls; and in the evening it is a fashionable promenade for persons of all descriptions.

The port of Caernarvon is rather dangerous, from the extensive banks adjacent thereto; but the harbour is very commodious, and vessels of six or seven hundred tons ride in security. The quay is also peculiarly convenient, as large vessels can ride close to it, and deliver or take in their cargoes. The trade is annually considerably increasing. Near the quay is the custom-house, well situated for vessels trading in slates, of which many thousands are exported to different parts of the empire, and procured from the quarries in the mountains of Llanberis.

From

From the top of a rock behind the hotel is a fine view of the town and castle; and on a clear day the Isle of Anglesea, Holyhead, and Paris Mountains may be distinctly seen, like a good map before the eyes. On the east end of the town is a large suburb, with a wide street leading to the bridge and ditch, sided with two round towers, and over the gate an assembly room. On the opposite side of the river Seiont, about half a mile from the town, are the ruins of a Roman fort, called Hên Waliau, with the walls entire on three sides, built of rough stones strongly cemented together, ten feet high by four thick, enclosing an area of about eighty yards from east to west; but the west side, which overhangs the steep bank of the river, has no trace of a wall. The remains of a Roman road are still visible from this place to Dinorwig, and a single stone bears the inscription S. V. C. probably Segontium Urbis Constantinc. Here Helen, the wife of Constantius, had a chapel, and her name is preserved in a well half a mile below on the river side. Near this place was found, a few years ago, a pot full of coins, buried under a tree; afterwards there were found a large coin of Vespasian in July, 1821, a small silver one of Antonius Pius in 1808, and another silver one of Valerian in 1827. Near Moel y Don is a large bed of a beautiful small-grained white free-stone, which supplies this part of the country with whet-stones: it is of the hardest kind, and, if used with oil, is little inferior to the Turkey oil-stone.

On leaving Caernarvon we proceed in an easterly direction, and, at the distance of about ten miles, pass through the village of Llanberis, commonly called Nantberis: the church is dedicated to Saint Peris, a saint and cardinal, who lived about the middle of the sixth century; he was the son of Helig ab Glanog, and retired here to lead a holy life. There is a well near the church, called Ffynnon Peris, in which ricketty children and scrofulous and rheumatic persons are bathed; and a poor woman, who lives in a cottage near the spring, has a few pence given her by strangers for shewing one or two large trout which she feeds in the well. The vale of Llanberis is straight, and nearly of an equal breadth throughout, with two lakes or pools; the upper one is about a mile in length and half a mile broad, wherein the char fish used to be caught, but the copper works, which are carried on here to a great extent, have long since destroyed them. The vale was formerly covered with wood, but at present few trees remain, though within the memory of old people there were extensive woods of oak; and Leland, in his Itinerary, makes particular mention of it. In the time of Howel Dda, Prince of Wales, in the year 940, the whole county was nearly covered with wood; for we find it ordered, in the Welsh laws framed by him, that whoever cleared away the timber from any land should possess the ground so cleared for five years, independent of the owner. The mountains also abounded in deer, which continued in great numbers till the end of Henry the Eighth's

Eighth's reign. On a rocky eminence stands an old building, called Dôlbadarn Castle, consisting of a round tower of 26 feet in diameter within, and also shewing a few fragments of the walls, and offices on the summit of a steep hill. The construction of this castle evidently proves it to be of British origin, perhaps as early as the sixth century, being mentioned then as being in the possession of Maelgwyn Gwynedd, Prince of North Wales, during his contention with the Saxons. In this fortress Owain Goch was confined twenty-six years, for rebellion against his brother, Llewelyn ab Iorwerth. The Earl of Pembroke took this castle from the Welsh in 1238, after a short resistance. A little south of this place is a tremendous cataract, called Ceunant Mawr, in height about sixty feet, from which precipitates a mountain stream amid numerous rocks, until it falls into a deep black pool below. North-east of the village is a high perpendicular mountain, called Glyder Vawr: the ascent is very steep and tiresome, because of numerous paths, continually obstructed by rocks and wet, which render the whole slippery and dangerous. This mountain is acknowledged to be the most lofty in Caernarvonshire, Snowdon excepted. In a flat, about half a mile up its ascent, is a small pool, called Llyn y Cwn, or Pool of Dogs, rendered remarkable by Giraldus for a singular kind of trout, perch, and eels, which were all monocular, *i. e.* wanting the left eye: but at present the pool seems destitute of fish of any description. Near the above is Glyder Vach, having the summit covered with groups of columnar stones of vast size, with others lying horizontally upon them. Several pieces of lava have also been found here, which Mr. Pennant conjectures might have originated in some mighty convulsion of nature, which probably left this mountain so rough and strangely disposed. A little to the south of Llanberis is

SNOWDON,

the etymology of the name of which mountain has given rise to several curious conjectures; but Snowdon is evidently derived from the Saxons, implying a snowy hill, or hill covered with snow, which is not uncommon here even in the month of June. Humphrey Lhwyd maintains its signification to be eagles' rocks. The ingenious Mr. Pennant derives it from a compound of Welsh words, as Creigiau'r Eira, or snowy cliffs; and perhaps both have an equal claim to originality. From the greatness of the object before us, it is almost impossible to give an adequate description; but according to the best authorities, Snowdon is, from the quay at Caernarvon to the highest peak, one thousand three hundred yards in perpendicular height above the level of the sea, and chiefly composed of a very hard stone, with large coarse crystal, a general attendant on alpine countries. The Welsh have also a tradition, that these uncouth and savage mountains formerly abounded with woods, and that they were felled by

by Edward the First, on account of affording a secure retreat to the natives, and convenience for their detached and ambuscading parties. This idea is confuted by Giraldus Cambrensis, in his description of this mountain, written nearly one hundred years before the time of Edward the First, which, besides, perfectly corresponds with its present appearance. Sir John Wynne, in his History of the Gwydir Family, says, "Snowdon was in ancient times a royal forest;" and still further asserts, that not only Nant-conway was wooded, but all Caernarvon, Merioneth, and Denbigh shires, were originally but one forest. This is evidently too general an assertion; for according to this author, Owen Glyndwr destroyed the whole in 1400. The distance of the summit of Snowdon from Caernarvon is rather more than ten miles, but from Dôlbadarn Castle, in the vale of Llanberis, where the ascent is gradual, a person mounted on a Welsh pony may, without much difficulty, ride up nearly to the top. To accomplish this, the traveller should go from Caernarvon to Dôlbadarn Castle, and after keeping on the side of the lake turn to the left for Ceunant Mawr, a noble cataract; from thence ascend a mountain to a vale called Cwm Brwynog, a very deep and fertile spot; from thence pass through Bwlch y Cwm Brwynog: here the ascent becomes very difficult, so that timid travellers are frequently obliged to clamber on foot, till, by keeping to the right, they arrive at Llyn Glâs, Llyn Nadroed, and Llyn Coch, where the spaces between the precipices form an agreeable isthmus, leading to a very verdant plain, where the traveller rests for a short time. After this a smooth path leads almost to the summit, called Y Wyddfa, or the Conspicuous, which rises to a point, leaving a small space for a circular wall of loose stones. The mountain from hence seems propped up by four buttresses, between which are four deep Cwms or vallies, with three lakes, and almost a boundless view, taking in a great part of the counties of Chester and York, with other parts of the north of England, Scotland, and Ireland, the Isle of Man, and Anglesea. From the same situation is a view of between twenty and thirty lakes, chiefly in this county and Merionethshire: of mountains, let it suffice to say the most noted are Moel y Wyddfa, Y Glyder, Carnedd David, and Carnedd Llewelyn, which are properly British Alps, having lakes and rivers, high and craggy precipices, covered with snow a considerable part of the year, and produce similar plants. The hills appear, as it were, heaped one on the top of the other; for after climbing up one you come to a valley, and most commonly to a lake, and passing by that, ascend another, and sometimes a third or fourth, before you gain the summit. The greater part of the rocks which compose these mountains are schistose, hornblende, mica, granite, and porphyry, enclosing considerable blocks of quartz. The plants and animals are nearly the same as those found about Cader Idris.

To conclude, it may be said, with Mr. Bingley, that were the traveller's

traveller's expectation to soar above all former ideas of magnificence, this mountain will infinitely surpass all conception, as it baffles all description, for no colour of language can paint the grandeur of the rising sun observed from this eminence, which is thus beautifully described by Mr. Pennant:—"I took much pains to see this prospect to advantage: I therefore sat up up at a farm house on the west till about twelve, and walked up the whole way. The night was remarkably fine and starry; towards morn the stars faded away, and left a short interval of darkness, which soon dispersed by the dawn of day —the body of the sun appearing most distinct, with the rotundity of the moon, before it arose high enough to render its beams too brilliant for our sight. The sea, which bounded the western part, was gilt by its beams, at first in slender streaks, but at length it glowed with redness. The prospect was disclosed to us, like the gradual drawing-up of a curtain in a theatre. We saw more and more, till the heat became so powerful as to attract the mists from the various lakes, which in a slight degree obscured the prospect. The shadow of the mountain was flung many miles, and shewed its bicapitated form; the Wyddfa making one, Crib y Distill the other head. The day proved so excessively hot, that the journey cost me the skin of the lower part of my face before I reached the resting place, after the fatigue of the morning." Another time, when Mr. Pennant was on Snowdon, he says—"A vast mist enveloped the whole circuit of the mountain. The prospect down was horrible: it gave an idea of numbers of abysses, concealed by a thick smoke furiously circulating around us: very often a gust of wind formed an opening in the clouds, which gave a fine and distinct vista of lake and valley; sometimes they opened only in one place, at others in many, at once exhibiting a most strange and perplexing sight of water, fields, rocks, or chasms, in fifty different places. They then closed at once, and left us involved in darkness: in a small space they would separate again, and fly in wild eddies round the middle of the mountains, and expose in parts both tops and bases clear to our view. We descended from this varied scene with great reluctance; and before we reached our horses, a thunder storm overtook us: its rolling among the mountains was inexpressibly awful; the rain uncommonly heavy; so that we re-mounted our horses, and gained the bottom with great risque of being swept away by these sudden waters."

SNOWDON FOREST.

The Welsh princes were greatly attached to the amusements of the field: hunting, fishing, hawking, and fowling, constituted their chief pleasure, exercise, and amusement, and the Welsh court was for a great part of the year migratory, or ambulatory; that is, the Prince with his attendants took his rounds, or made regular circuits through the mountainous parts of Gwynedd, and provision was made by law for

for the maintenance of his hounds, horses, and attendants, in the neighbourhood of the Llys, or Palace. In these excursions Creigiau'r Eiry,* or Snowdon forest, claimed his chief attention, and seemed to have been the principal scene of attraction, as appears from a number of places still bearing the name of Llys, and the different castles and manors in the neighbourhood of Snowdon which formerly belonged to the Welsh princes. One of these, Llys yn Dinorwig, in the parish of Llanddeiniolen, was conferred on Sir Gruffydd Llwyd, of Tregarnedd, in Anglesea, by Edward the First, then at Rhuddlan Castle, when he brought him the news of the birth of the first Prince of Wales of the English line; and the king's weir of Aberglaslyn, his mills of Dwyvor in Eivionydd, and lands at Dolbenmaen, and the constableship of Criccieth castle, were bestowed upon Sir Howel y Fywal (or the Battle-axe), who is reported to have taken John, the French king, prisoner, and was knighted by the Black Prince at the battle of Poictiers. The Welsh princes had also a seat and castle at Aber, where they frequently resided; another near Llyniau Nantlli, in the parish of Llanllyvni, called Bala Deulyn, where Edward the First spent several days after his conquest of Wales. Besides these conveniences of hunting, this part of North Wales was very strong in a military point of view; for here we behold a range of lofty mountains, extending from one sea to the other, *i. e.* from the great Ormshead and Penmaenmawr, near Conway, to the Rivals, near Clynnog, on one side, and Gest, near Penmorvay on the other; and having, in addition to these, the Conway as a barrier on the north, and Traethmawr on the south, over which the Welsh usually retreated when they were pressed by the English arms. The principal defiles, likewise, which opened through that range of vast mountains were secured by strong fortifications. The castle of Diganwy was placed on the banks of the Conway, nearly opposite to the present town of that name; that of Caer Rhun was situated at the foot of Bwlch y Ddan Faen, on the east side; with a fort at Aber on the west; Dolwyddelan nearly central, as a place of safety between the mountains; a watch tower at Nant Ffrangcon; Dolbadarn Castle in Nant Peris, and Castell Cidwm in Nant y Bettws; with a fort at Dinas Emrys, in Nantgwynant; and the passes of Traethmawr and Traethbach, guarded by the strong castles of Harlech on one side, and Criccieth on the other; with a watch tower at Penrhyn Daudraeth, another at Cesail Gyfarch, and a fort at Dolbenmaen: and all these various fortifications, placed in the most advantageous situations, marked, for a rude age, great military sagacity.

Leland observes, "All Cregeryri is forest, and no part of Merionethshire lieth in Cregeryri. The best wood of Carnarvonshire is by Glinne Kledder, and by Glin Llugwy, and by Capel Curig, and at Llan

* Creigiau'r Eiry: the snowy crags. Eiry, and not Eira, is the expression made use of by Aneurin and Llywarch hên and other ancient bards.

Llan Peris. Meetly good wood about Conwy Abbey and Penmachno, and about Coetmore and Coit Park, near Bangor, and in many other places. In Lleyn and Ivioneth is little wood. Carnarvonshire, about the shore, hath reasonable good corn, as about a mile upland from the shore, near Carnarvon. The more upward be Eryri hills, and in them is very little corn, except oats in some places, and a little barley, but scanty rye; if there were, the deer would destroy it. But in Lleyn and Hiuionith is good corn, both along-shore and almost through the upland."

Snowdon being a royal forest, warrants were issued by the English Kings and Princes of Wales for the killing of the deer. "I have seen one," says Mr. Pennant, "from the Duke of Suffolk, dated April 30th, 1552, and another in the first year of Queen Elizabeth, signed by Robert Townsend, and a third in 1561 by Henry Sidney. The second was addressed to the master of the game, ranger, and keeper of the Queen's Highness's Forest of Snowdon, in the county of Caernarvon. The last extended the forest into the counties of Merioneth and Anglesea, with the view of gratifying the rapacity of the favourite Dudley Earl of Leicester, who had by letters patent been appointed chief ranger of the forest. In consequence, he tyrannized over these counties with great insolence. A set of informers immediately acquainted him that most of the freeholders' estates might be brought within the boundaries: commissioners were appointed to enquire of the encroachments and concealments of lands within the forest; juries were impannelled, but their returns were rejected by the commissioners, as unfavourable to the Earl's designs. The jurors performed an honest part, and found a verdict for the county. A new commission was then directed to Sir Richard Bulkeley, of Baron Hill, Anglesea, Sir William Herbert, and others, but this, by the firmness of Sir Richard, was likewise soon superseded. But in 1578 another was appointed, dependent upon the favourite. A packed jury was directed to appear at Beaumaris, who went on the same day to view the marsh at Malldraeth, ten miles distant, and found that marsh to be in the forest of Snowdon! notwithstanding it was in another county, and divided from the forest by an arm of the sea; because the commissioners had told them that they had met with an indictment in the Exchequer of Caernarvon, by which they had discovered that a stag had been roused in the forest of Snowdon, in Caernarvonshire, was pursued to the banks of the Menai, that it swam over that branch of the sea, and was killed at Malldraeth—Infra Forestam nostram de Snowdon. The Jury appeared in the Earl's livery, blue, with ragged staves on the sleeves, and were ever afterwards branded with the title of the Black Jury who sold their country. Sir Richard, not the least daunted with the decision, continued steady in his opposition to the tyrant, and laid before the Queen the odiousness of the proceedings, and the grievances her loyal

loyal subjects the Welsh laboured under by the commission; so that in 1579 her Highness was pleased, by proclamation, to recall it."—Leicester, disappointed in his views, pursued Sir Richard with the utmost inveteracy, but his designs proved unsuccessful.

It appears from an old Welsh manuscript, containing some of the poetical compositions of the three following bards, viz. Hugh ab Risiart ab Davydd, Morus Dwyvech, and Cadwaladr Gruffydd, that eight gentlemen from Lleyn, in this county, were confined in the Marshalsea in London, about this time, on account of the forest of Snowdon: viz. John Griffith, Esq. Griffith Jones, of Nyffryn, Esq. Hugh Richards, of Cefn Llanfair, Esq. William Griffith, Esq. Rowland Roberts, Esq. Hugh Gwynn, of Bodvel, Esq. Robert Jones, Esq. and Thomas Madryn, Esq. There are fourteen stanzas by Morus Dwyvech, otherwise ab Ivan ab Eineon, and eight by Cadwaladr Griffith, expressing their own and the general sorrow and regret on account of the confinement of those gentlemen, and wishing for their speedy release from imprisonment:—

I.

Archa, ni chela wych hwyliad—tra allwy
Trwy wyllys, a chariad,
Im gwir Arglwydd, rwydd roddiad;
Ystyn, i wyr Lleyn, wellhad.

II.

Arwyth nid adwyth dwediad—di fethol
Duw fytho, yn geidwad,
Wyth rosyn, wyth di-risiad;
Wyth Baun glew, wyth Ben Gwlad.

Cadwr. Griffith, alias Cadwaladr Cessail.

The Northwallian princes had, in addition to their title, that of "Lord of Snowdon." They had five hardy barons within the tract, who held of them. Such was the importance of this strong region, that when Llywelyn was at the last extremity he rejected the proposal of Edward the First, of a thousand a year and some honourable county in England, well knowing that his principality must terminate with the cession. No sooner had Edward effected his conquest than he held a triumphal fair upon Snowdon, and another at Llyniau Nantlli, then called Bala Deulyn, and adjourned to finish the joys of his victory by solemn tournaments on the plains of Nevin.

The statement by Giraldus and others, that snow remains on the hills the whole year, is incorrect. Sir John Wynne asserts that Eleanor, King Edward's queen, and William Sutton the Justice (who dealt hardly with the gentry of North Wales), took by force, from the Welsh princes' brothers and relatives, many of their manors and possessions in the vicinity of Snowdon.

Further particulars respecting Snowdon, and the appearance and state of this county in the time of the rebellion of Owain Glyndwr, and

and the civil wars of York and Lancaster, are given by Sir John Wynne, in his History of the Gwydir Family. Speaking of the enmities and dissentions between different Welsh families in Caernarvonshire, about the year 1400, and in particular of the violent contentions between two petty chieftains, viz. Howel ab Ivan ab Rhŷs Gethin, who lived at Dolwyddelen castle, and one David ab Jenkin, who occupied the rock of Carreg y Gwalch, near Gwydir, he observes, that David ab Jenkin, finding that he was unable any longer to contend with his adversary, was compelled to leave the country and go to Ireland, where he remained for about a year. "In the end (says Sir John) he returned in the summer time, having himself and all his followers clad in green; who being come into the country, he dispersed them here and there among his friends, lurking by day and walking by night, for fear of his adversaries. All the whole country was then but a forest, rough and spacious, as it is still, but then waste of inhabitants, and all overgrown with woods; for Owain Glyndwr's wars beginning in the year 1400, continued fifteen years, which brought such a desolation that green grass grew on the market-place in Llanrwst, called Bryn y Betten, and the deer fled into the churchyard, as it is reported.* This desolation arose from Owain Glyndwr's policy, to bring all things to waste, that the English could find no strength nor resting place. The country being brought to such a desolation, could not be replanted in haste, and the wars of York and Lancaster happening some fifteen years after, this country being the chiefest fastness of North Wales, was kept by David ab Jenkin (a captain of the Lancastrian faction) fifteen years in Edward the Fourth's time, who sent divers captains to besiege him and waste the country, while he kept his rock of Carreg y Gwalch, and lastly by the Earl Herbert, who brought it to utter desolation. Now you are to understand that in these days the country of Nantconwy was not only wooded, but also Caernarvon, Merioneth, and Denbigh shires seemed to be but one forest, having few inhabitants, though, of all others, Nantconwy had the fewest, being the worst then, and the seat of the wars, to whom the country paid contribution. From the town of Conwy to Bala, and from Nantconwy to Denbigh (when wars did happen to cease in Hiraethog, the country to the east of Nantconwy), there was continually fostered a wasp's nest which troubled the whole country; I mean a lordship belonging to Saint John of Jerusalem, called Spyty Ivan,† a large thing which had privilege of sanctuary. This peculiar jurisdiction (not governed by the king's laws) became a receptacle for a thousand murderers, who being safely warranted there by law, made the place thoroughly peopled. No spot within twenty miles was safe from their incursions and robberies, and what they got within

* This is a proof that the deer in Snowdon forest were numerous at that time.

† Hospitium sive Sanctuarium—Hospital. The word is perhaps derived from Ysbwyd-ty, a place of entertainment or refreshment.

within their limits was their own. They had to their backstay friends and receptors in all the county of Merioneth and Powysland. These helping the former desolations of Nantconwy, and preying upon that country as their next neighbours, kept most part of the country all waste and without inhabitants. In this state stood the hundred of Nantconwy when Meredith ab Ievan (my ancestor) removed his dwelling thither, being (as I guess) about the four-and-twentieth year of his age, and in the beginning of Henry the Seventh's reign.—Being questioned by his friends, why he meant to leave his ancient house and habitation and dwell in Nantconwy, swarming with thieves and bondmen, whereof there are many in the king's lordship and towns in that hundred, he answered, that he should find elbow-room in that vast country among the bondmen, and that he had rather fight with outlaws than with his own blood and kindred; 'for if I live in my own house in Eivionydd* (said he), I must either kill my own kindred, or be killed by them.'"—The above narrative will be sufficient to give the reader an idea of the miserable state of the country at that time.

The Marquis of Anglesea is at present the ranger of Snowdon forest, constable of the castle, and mayor of the town of Caernarvon. These offices have been for some years hereditary in the family.

It is supposed that Carnedd Llywelyn and Carnedd Davydd (two of the highest peaks of the Arvonian range next to Snowdon) were so denominated owing to their having been the temporary retreat of those princes during a part of the time that King Edward the First's army was in Wales; and no doubt the heaps of stones still visible on the summits of these and other mountains were collected and placed there as shelters from the inclemency of the weather, to those who fled to them during that contest and the rebellion of Owain Glyndwr. And many of these hills appear to have been made use of in former times (as they were also in the late war) as signal-posts, and thus to have formed a kind of telegraphic information of the approach of an enemy.

About seven miles to the east of Llanberis is

BEDDGELERT, OR BETHGELERT,

(the church of which is dedicated to Saint Mary,) a small village completely embosomed in mountains, forming a fine contrast with the luxuriant meadows of the vale below; the houses are few and irregular, but the church is remarkably neat, of the origin of which we have a singular tradition, which assigns the following:—"At a period when wolves were so formidable and numerous in Wales, Llewelyn the Great came to reside here for the hunting season, with his princess and children; but while the family were one day absent, a wolf entered into the house and attempted to kill an infant that was left

* Cessail Gyfarch was the name of his house.

left asleep in the cradle. The prince's favourite greyhound, called Gelert (given him by King John in 1205), that was watching by the side, seized the rapacious animal and killed it, but in the struggle the cradle was overturned, and lay upon the wolf and child. On the prince's return, missing the infant, and observing the dog's mouth stained with blood, he immediately concluded Gelert had murdered the child, and in a paroxysm of rage drew his sword and ran the faithful animal through the heart; but how great was his astonishment when, on replacing the cradle, he found the wolf dead and his child alive. He, however, caused the grateful creature to be honourably interred, and, as a monument to his memory, erected a church on the spot, as a grateful offering to God for the preservation of his child."

At Beddgelert was a priory of Augustine monks, founded by Anian, Bishop of Bangor, in the thirteenth century, and is supposed to be the oldest religious house in Wales, except Bardsey and Bangor Iscoed. In 1280 this monastery was much damaged by fire, but rebuilt soon after with money obtained by Anian, for absolving such as sincerely repented of their sins, by remitting the usual penance of forty days. There is no relict whatever of this place remaining. Near here is a beautiful vale called Gwynant, or more properly Nant Gwynant, about six miles long, and affords a great variety of woods, lakes, and meadows, bounded on each side by lofty mountains, which add considerably to the beauty of this romantic place. On the left hand, half a mile up the vale, is a lofty rock, called Dinas Emrys, the fort of Ambrosius, and where tradition says Vortigern retreated after calling in the Saxons, by which he for some time avoided the persecution and odium of his country. It is probable that on this insular rock he erected a temporary residence of timber, which lasted him till his final retreat to Nant Gwytherny, or Vortigern's valley, near Nevyn. Here are two beautiful lakes, abounding with trout: Llyn Gwynant, the uppermost, near which are the ruins of an old chapel, Capel Nant Trwynan; and Llyn Dinas, the lowermost, at one end of which is a neat villa belonging to Daniel Vawdrey, Esq. and at the other the ancient fortress of Dinas Emrys.

Tanner ascribes the church to Llewelyn, the last prince, but Mr. Rowlands has proved it to be more ancient even than the reign of Owain Gwynedd, as it obtained grants of lands, &c. from that prince, and also from Llewelyn the Great. The prior generally resided at Llanidan, in Anglesey, as appears from several deeds which Mr. Rowlands consulted, signed by one Kynhelin, Prior de Bethcelert, apud Llan Idan in monasterio ibidem. The townships of Berw and Tre'r Beirdd had been given by Prince Owain Gwynedd to this convent. The prior had also for his support the grange of Llecheiddior in Eivionydd, also the grange of Fentidilt, and the village of Gwernfrelyn; he had also an allowance of fifty-two cows and twenty-

two

two sheep.* The expenses of the house must have been considerable, as religious houses of this description in former times answered the threefold purposes of inns, almshouses, and hospitals. In 1535 it was bestowed by Henry the Eighth upon the abbey of Chertsey, in Surrey. On the dissolution, the king gave to the family of the Bodvels all the lands in Caernarvonshire which belonged to this priory, and all those in Anglesey to that of the Prydderchs, excepting the township of Tre'r Beirdd. The daughter of Richard Prydderch, of Myfyrian, married a Llwyd of Llugwy; and on the extinction of that family all their estates were bought by the late Lord Uxbridge, who left them to his nephew, Sir William Irby, the late Lord Boston. Edward Conway is mentioned as the last prior. The revenues of Beddgelert were valued by Dugdale at twenty pounds three shillings and eight 'pence. This parish in former days produced two celebrated Welsh bards, who both lived in the township of Nanmor, in the county of Merioneth; viz. Rhŷs Goch o Eryri and Rhŷs Nanmor. Rhŷs Goch is said to have lived at a place called Havod Garegog; and a stone not far from Pont Aberglaslyn is shewn as his chair (Cadair Rhŷs Goch). The scene of Southey's 'Madoc' is laid principally in this parish. Tradition affirms, that Prince Madoc ab Owain Gwynedd (who is supposed first to have discovered America) resided in this parish, and used to attend divine service in Nant Gwynant chapel. Sir John Wynne informs us, that when the Earl of Pembroke's army took Harlech castle, and thence visited Nantrwynan (or Nant Gwynant) in Beddgelert, a noted chief, whose name was Robert ab Ievan, of the Lancastrian faction, used to lodge at night in the rock called Ogo Velen, near Meillionen. This was about the year 1468.

CONWAY, OR ABERCONWAY,

(Properly Aber Cynwy) is a large picturesque town seated near a river of that name, formerly noted for being a pearl fishery even in the time of the Romans. Suetonius says the chief motive alleged by the Romans for their invasion was the British pearls. One presented to the queen of King Charles the Second, by Sir R. Wynne, is now honoured with a place in the regal crown. The town was strongly fortified by lofty walls, one mile in circumference, defended by twenty-four round towers and four gates, called Porth ucha, Porth issa, Porth y Castell, and Porth y Felin, or the Mill Gate. From the side towards the river ran two curtains, terminating with watch towers, one of which only remains. The entrance to the castle (which Mr. Pennant says "is of matchless magnificence") from the former gate is by a narrow paved gallery, with round towers, leading to the High-street, which terminates at a similar gate. The walls are

* There must be some mistake here with respect to the sheep, as the number must have been much greater.

are all embattled, and 12 or 15 feet thick, built on a solid rock, but there is no tower to the north. The castle, built by Edward the First in 1284, who, it is believed, employed the same architect, De Ellerton, who built Caernarvon castle, stands on a high rock, commanding the river, with eight round towers in its circuit, and a wall 11 feet thick. The principal entrance was from the town to the north over the bridge, leading into a large oblong area, with a spacious terrace on the west. On the south, near the river, is an elegant hall 139 feet by 32 feet, and 30 feet high, with a chapel at one end. Its roof was supported by eight fine gothic arches, and warmed by a great fire-place at one end, and another on the side, and lighted by nine windows, having underneath spacious vaults for ammunition. Near the east end the stranger passes into a square court, surrounded by galleries and small apartments. On the north is the king's tower, a vaulted room with a recess or cell of seven pointed and groined arches: three are open, having under them more arches, with abasements all round. This is called the King's Seat, the other is named the Queen's Tower. On the south side of the castle half a tower is fallen from its foundation, leaving the upper part suspended, occasioned by the inhabitants digging slate from its foundation. Many of the towers have smaller ones arising from them as at Caernarvon. The castle seems to have been of considerable importance in the reign of Charles the First, when we find it strongly fortified, and had the principal effects of the county lodged within its walls. However, Colonel Mytton, a parliament general, got possession of it in 1646, but it was again restored to the owner: a breach has lately been made in the town wall for the road leading to the elegant and admired suspension bridge lately erected, the east end of which rests on a small rocky island, from which an embankment several hundred yards in length has been formed to the Denbighshire side of the river. The church, dedicated to Saint Mary, is a very plain structure, with a few good monuments of the Wynnes. The following eminent persons were buried therein: Cynan ab Owen Gwynedd, A. D. 1200; its great founder, Llywelyn ab Iorwerth, 1240; Llywelyn ap Maelgwyn, 1230; Davydd ab Llywelyn, 1246; and Gruffydd ab Llywelyn ab Iorwerth, 1248. At the Dissolution, the founder's coffin was removed to Llanrwst, where it is still to be seen. A very rude figure, cut in stone, preserves the memory of Mary, the mother of Archbishop Williams, who died in child-birth of twins, October 10, 1585. In the church-yard is an inscription on a tomb-stone of one Nicholas Hookes, Gent. importing that he was the one-and-fortieth child of his father, William Hookes, Esq, by Alice his wife, and the father of twenty-seven children; he died 20th March, 1637. Here are likewise some remains of a college, founded in the reign of Edward the First, now in complete ruins, but still shewing some specimens of curious

curious workmanship, with several sculptured armorial bearings, some of which relate to the Stanleys. Among other curiosities of this town is shewn an antique house (lately inhabited by four families), built in a quadrangular form by Robert Wynne, Esq. of the family of Gwydir, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and adorned in the fantastic fashion of that period. The roof is singularly carved with a profusion of ornaments, and the front decorated with the arms of England, and some curious crests, with birds and beasts, bearing date 1585. Over the door facing the street are the arms of Queen Elizabeth: over the gateway is a Greek inscription, and in Latin the words "Sustine, abstine," and on the house "I. H. S. X. P. S." in Greek unicals or capitals. Richard the Second remained here some little time on his return from Ireland, and was soon after betrayed and delivered into the hands of his enemy, the usurper Bolingbroke. The castle of Conway was in the custody of Archbishop Williams from 1642 to 1645, when he was superseded by Prince Rupert, who caused Sir John Owen to take possession of it. Llywelyn, the son of Iorwerth, Prince of North Wales, built and endowed a Cistertian Abbey here, to the honour of the blessed Virgin and all Saints, in the year 1185: but about the year 1283, when King Edward the First, out of the ruins of the old city, built a new one, he took this abbey into his hands, and founded another at Maenan, in Denbighshire, about three miles distant, and translated the monks thither."*

Diganwy, or Gannoc, or Din Gonwy, (the castle on the river Conway,) was once a famous city, but being destroyed by lightning in 816, was never afterwards rebuilt, so that the name only now remains, with a tradition that Conway rose out of its ruins. Many battles are said to have been fought here between the Britons and Saxons. About 100 years ago, a number of brass celts were found under a great stone, placed heads and points. At present the only remains of this ancient place are on two hills, near the shore of Conway; the space between crossed by the walls running up the sides. On the summit of one are the vestiges of a round tower, and a few foundations of walls scattered on its accessible parts. In 1088, Robert Radland was here overpowered by the Welsh and slain. Soon after, Llywelyn ab Gruffydd destroyed the castle; and it was again rebuilt in the year 1210, by Randolph Earl of Chester. King John also lay under its walls in 1211, but was afterwards reduced to great distress by Prince Llywelyn; as was Henry the Third on the same spot. The castle was, however, entirely destroyed by Llywelyn ab Gruffydd. Near this place, on a low hill, are the remains of an ancient round tower, 20 feet high and only 12 broad.

At the distance of four miles from Aberconway is the village of Dwygyfylchi, the church of which is dedicated to Saint Gwynin, who flourished

* Tanner's Not. Mon.

flourished about the middle of the sixth century. A little south of Dwygyfylchi is Penmaen Mawr, a most stupendous mountain, being 1400 feet perpendicular from its base, and to travellers extremely dangerous. In 1772 a good turnpike road was attempted to be carried over the middle of it; but from its situation, close to a frightful precipice, it was found impossible to render it permanent and secure; therefore a stone wall, in many places 140 feet high, was erected, to defend the traveller from the danger of the horrid precipice below and from the sea, which breaks just before the wall close to the road. When proceeding up the side of this mountain, among numerous fragments of stones falling or staring through the rugged surface, we are, therefore, happily concealed from the perpendicular declivity to the sea by a wall 5 feet high, erected on arches of stone bedded in strong mortar, but with such little foundation, that a large portion of it is continually falling into the Irish sea, or obstructing the road. A new road is now in contemplation to avoid this dangerous and horrific situation. On each side of Penmaen Mawr was a small inn, where Dean Swift wrote the following lines on the glass in one of the windows:—

Before you venture here to pass
Take a good refreshing glass;

and at the other house,

Now you're over take another,
Your fainting spirits to recover.

On the summit stands Braich y Dinas, an ancient fortification, encompassed with a strong treble wall, and within each wall the foundation of at least 100 towers all round, of equal size, being about 6 yards in diameter, with, in other places, from two to three yards thick, the castle seems to have been impregnable, there being no way to assault it, because the hill is so high, steep, and rocky, and the walls so uncommonly strong. The way or entrance to it ascends by so many turnings that 100 men may defend themselves against a legion; yet there appears room for 20,000 men within its ruinous walls. At the summit of the rock, within the innermost wall, is a well, affording plenty of water, even in the driest summer. Tradition makes this the strongest retreat the Britons had in Snowdon; while the magnitude of the works shew it to have been a princely fortification, strengthened by nature and art, and seated near the sea on one of the highest mountains in Caernarvonshire. Mr. Pennant, in his examination of this place, discovered four very distinct walls, placed one above the other, one of which was six feet high and one and a half thick; in most places the facing appeared perfect, but all dry work; between the walls, in all parts, were innumerable small buildings, mostly circular, regularly faced within and without, but not disposed in any certain order; though in some places the walls were intersected with others equally strong, and very judiciously calculated

calculated to cover the passage into Anglesea, being apparently impregnable to every thing but famine.

About one mile from Braich y Dinas is Y Meineu Hirion, one of the most remarkable monuments in all Snowdon. It is a circular intrenchment of 80 feet diameter, with ten stones standing on the outside placed endways, the whole enclosed by a stone wall. Near this are four other circles, but smaller, one of which shews the remains of a cromlech. This tract has certainly been much inhabited; for all round are the remains of small buildings made of round stones, suited to the rude simplicity of former ages. Tradition says, a bloody battle was fought here between the Romans and Britons, and that the carneddau, now visible, are the several graves where the vanquished Romans were buried. At about the distance of six miles from Dwygyfylchi is Aber (its church dedicated to Saint Boda, a saint who lived about the sixth century), a celebrated little village, situate at the entrance of a deep glen, which runs about two miles, bounded on one side by a mountain covered with wood, and on the other side by a tremendous magnificent slate rock, called Maes y Gaer. At the extremity of this glen a mountain presents a concave front, in the centre of which a vast cataract precipitates itself above 60 feet down the face of a rugged rock. Near the village is a conical mount, on which formerly stood a castle, once the resideuce of Llywelyn the Great, and where he received a summons from Edward the First to deliver up the Principality to the Crown of England, with the offer of £1000 per annum in the latter; which, like a patriotic prince, he instantly rejected. Some foundations of this castle are still remaining on a summit, but the superstructure is entirely destroyed. This place is chiefly noticed for its vicinity and easy ascent to Penmaen Mawr. It is also one of the ferries to Anglesea, with a pleasant walk of four miles over the Lavan Sands. Near this place, it is said, was detected the intrigue of William de Breos (son of Reginald), a baron in the time of Henry III.), with the wife of Llewelyn. In a morass, near a mountain called Bere, in this parish, Davydd, brother to Llewelyn, the last prince, was taken, together with his wife, two sons, and seven daughters. The tradition is that he was basely betrayed by some of his pretended friends, and that he and his family were carried captives, and delivered into the hands of the English king then at Ruddlan castle, and from thence to Salop, where he was executed.

BANGOR,

(From Ban, high, and Cor, a circle,) which, though a city, consists of only one street, in which is the market-house and inn. The cathedral is the principal structure in this place, and is supposed to have been erected in the fifteenth century: the choir was built by Bishop Dean about 1496, but the tower and nave by Bishop Skivington in 1532, as appears by an inscription over the west door. The nave is 110 feet long

long by 60, the transepts 60 by 25, and the choir 54 by 26. The service of this cathedral is performed with true reverential decorum, and a regulation has been made to accommodate the inhabitants and environs, by having the service performed in Welsh at seven in the morning, English at eleven, and Welsh again at four in the evening. The chapter consists of a dean, three archdeacons, two precentors, two vicars, eight canons, six lay clerks, and eight choristers. The church is dedicated to Saint Deiniol, or Daniel, a saint who lived in the former part of the sixth century, and who, about the year 525, founded a college here, where he was abbot, and this place being some time after raised to the dignity of a bishoprick, he became the first bishop of it: he died about the year 554, and was buried in the Isle of Bardsey. Here are the monuments of Bishops Glynn, 1558, Morgan, 1673, Robinson, 1584, Vaughan, 1597, Rowlands, 1665 (who purchased four new bells, and new-roofed the cathedral). Richard Kyffin, the active Dean of this church in the reigns of Richard the Third and Henry the Seventh, was buried here in 1501. Bishop Humphrey Lloyd was buried in Bishop Rowlands' grave in 1688. There is a monument, with a cross, on the south transept, ascribed to Owen Glyndwr, who was buried at Monington, in Herefordshire; but Mr. Pennant, with apparently better reason, ascribes it to Owain Gwynedd. Here are also the remains of a palace, built by Bishop Skivington, surrounded by embattled walls, in the garden of which is a mineral spring of common chalybeate. The dean's house still remains; but the rest, with Saint Mary's church, are said to have been built by King Edgar in 972. The old castle, said to be built by Hugh Lupus about the year 1098, and founded on a hill at some distance from the town, has been down many years ago. Without the town stands the Black Friars, converted into a free-school by Dr. Glynn in 1557, and has long been in high repute as a training seminary for Oxford, and for Trinity College, Dublin. Since the foundation a very handsome school house has been erected, with an income of £400 per ann. Over the chimney is a representation of one Gruffydd, who is supposed to have been the founder of the former ruins. The church was burnt by the rebellious Owen Glyndwr in the reign of Henry the Fourth. The whole of the present fabric is one of gothic architecture, with no particular ornament to distinguish it from a parish church, except some very picturesque beauties around its ancient foundation.

About 18 bishops, mostly of British extraction, presided in succession over the see of Bangor; of whom, however, little information can be collected previous to the annexation of the Principality to the Crown of England, when Bishop Anian, who was in the interest of Edward the First, obtained considerable grants and privileges to the see, and re-established the discipline and services of the church. The grants included five manors in the county of Caernarvon, three in Denbighshire,

Denbighshire, and one in Montgomeryshire. From Anian till the Reformation there were in succession 24 bishops of English extraction, many of whom were great benefactors to the see, and expended large sums on the cathedral, &c. The bishops of this see, under the reformed church, were for a length of time chosen from some of the most respectable families in the principality.

About two miles from Bangor is the magnificent Suspension Bridge over the straits of the Menai. Some years have elapsed since the design of erecting a bridge over the Menai strait was first contemplated, for the purpose of facilitating the intercourse between this kingdom and Ireland. In 1810 and 1811 several plans of cast-iron bridges were submitted to a committee of the House of Commons, and by them approved of as adapted to the object in question: and particularly one of a single arch of 500 feet in the span, and 100 feet above high water, submitted in 1811 by Mr. Telford, the expense of which was estimated at somewhat more than £127,000; but the difficulty of "fixing a proper centering, owing to the rocky bottom of the channel and the depth and rapidity of the tide-way," seems to have caused this project to be abandoned almost as soon as it was conceived; and accordingly we find Mr. Telford sent in a plan of the cast-iron bridge, accompanied by the design of one to be constructed on the principle of suspension. In the course of a few years after, upon being engaged to execute a similar work over the Mersey at Runcorn, he was enabled to improve very considerably upon his former design. In consequence, in the year 1818, he laid before a Committee of the House of Commons his new design. According to this the iron hanging bridge over the Menai was to consist of one opening of 560 feet between the points of suspension; in addition to which there were to be seven arches, four on the coast of Anglesea and three on that of Caernarvonshire, each 60 feet in the span, making the total length of the bridge 910 feet; the height above the level of high water line was to be 100 feet. "The roadway," observes Mr. Telford, "will embrace two carriage-ways, each 12 feet in breadth, with a foot-path of four feet between them. The whole is to be suspended from four lines of strong iron cables by perpendicular iron rods placed five feet apart, and these rods will support the roadway framing. The suspending power is calculated at 2016 tons, and the weight to be suspended, exclusive of the cables, is 343 tons, leaving a disposable power of 1674 tons. The four sides of the roadways will be made of framed ironwork firmly bound together for seven feet in height, and there will be a similar work for five feet in depth below the cables. The weight of the whole bridge between the points of suspension will be 489 tons. The abutments will consist of the masonry work, comprising the extreme stone-work, the two piers, and the seven arches before-mentioned: each of the two piers will be 60 feet by 40½ wide at high water-mark, having a foundation of rock.

rock. Upon the summit of the two main piers will be erected a frame of cast-iron work, of a pyramidal form, for the purpose of raising the cables from which the bridge is to be suspended." The probable cost of erecting this stupendous structure Mr. Telford estimated at sixty, or, allowing for any unforeseen charges, at most seventy thousand pounds, about half the calculated expense of the cast-iron bridge on the old plan. The chosen spot for its site was Ynys y Moch, and a little to the westward of Bangor Ferry, which site had been fixed for the work first proposed, and where the opposite shores seemed to offer every advantage for the undertaking. The first stone of this national bridge was laid, without any ceremony, at noon, on Tuesday, the 10th of August, 1820, by Mr. Provis, resident-engineer. On the 26th of April, 1825, the first chain of this stupendous work was thrown over the straits of Menai, in the presence of an immense concourse of persons. At half-past two o'clock, it being then about half-flood tide, the raft prepared for the occasion, stationed on the Caernarvonshire side, near Treborth mill, which supported the part of the chain intended to be drawn over, began to move gradually from its moorings, towed by four boats, with the assistance of the tide, to the centre of the river, between the two grand piers. When the raft was adjusted and brought to its ultimate situation, it was made fast to several buoys anchored in the channel for that purpose. A part of the chain, pending from the apex of the suspending pier on the Caernarvonshire side down nearly to high water-mark, was then made fast by a bolt to the part of the chain lying on the raft; which operation was completed in ten minutes. The next process was the fastening of the other extremity of the chain on the raft to two blocks of immense size and power, for the purpose of hoisting it up to its intended station, the apex of the suspending pier on the Anglesea side. When the blocks were made secure to the chain (comprising 25 tons weight of iron), two capstans, and also two preventive capstans commenced working, each capstan being propelled by thirty-two men. To preserve an equal tension in the rotatory evolutions of the two principal capstans, 2 fifers played several enlivening tunes to keep the men regular in their steps; for which purpose they had been previously trained. At this critical and interesting juncture the attention of every one present seemed rivetted to the novel spectacle; the chain rose majestically, and the gratifying sight was enthusiastically enjoyed by all present in "breathless silence." At ten minutes before five o'clock the final bolt was fixed, which completed the whole line of chain, and the happy event was hailed by the hearty acclamations of the spectators. Not the least accident, delay, or failure, occurred in any department during the whole operation. From the moving of the raft to the uniting of the chain only 2 hours and 25 minutes transpired. Upon the completion of the chain, three of the workmen passed along the upper

upper surface of the chain, which forms a curvature of 590 feet; the versed sine of the arch is 43 feet. On the termination of the day's proceedings, the workmen (in number about 150) were regaled, by order of the Right Hon. the Parliamentary Commissioners of the Holyhead Road Improvements, with a quart of cwrw da each. The sixteenth chain, completing the whole line of suspension, was carried over on the 9th of July following.

The general opening of the bridge first took place on Monday, January 30, 1826. The Royal London and Holyhead Mail Coach, carrying the London mail bag for Dublin, passed over at one o'clock, A.M.; and the first carriage that passed was that of Augustus Elliot Fuller, Esq. one of the Commissioners, drawn by four beautiful greys; the first stage coach was the Pilot, a Bangor and Caernarvon day coach; the first London stage coach was the Oxonian. These were followed by the carriage of Sir David Erskine, Bart. late proprietor of the Ferry, drawn by four elegant greys decorated with ribbons, and by several gentlemen's carriages, landaus, gigs, cars, &c. &c. and horsemen: numerous flags were flying, and cannons (stationed on each side of the bridge) were discharged at intervals of the day. The dimensions of the bridge are as follows:—The extreme length of the chain from the fastenings in the rocks is about 1715 feet; the height of the roadway from high water line is 100 feet; each of the seven small piers from high water line to the spring of the arches is 65 feet; the span of each arch is 62 feet. Each of the suspending piers is 52 feet above the road; the road on the bridge consists of two carriage-ways of 12 feet each, with a foot-path of 4 feet in the centre; the length of the suspended part of the road from pier to pier is 553 feet; the carriage-road passes through two arches in the suspending piers of the width of 9 feet by 15 feet in height to the spring of the arches. To counteract the attraction and expansion of the iron from the effects of the change in the atmosphere, a set of rollers are placed under cast-iron saddles on the top of the suspending piers where the chains rest; the vertical rods, an inch square, suspended from the chains, support the sleepers for the flooring of the roadway, the rods being placed 5 feet from each other. The chains, 16 in number, consist of 5 bars each; length of the bar 9 feet 9 inches, width 3 inches by 1 inch, with 6 connecting lengths at each joint 1 foot 6 inches by 10 inches and 1 inch, secured by two bolts at each joint, each bolt weighing about 56 pounds; and the total number of the bars in the cross-section of the chain is 80.

From Bangor, in a south-easterly direction, is the village of Llandygau; and at the distance of about 14 miles on the right is Capel Curig. The church is dedicated to Saint Curig, a saint who came into Wales about the seventh century, and who has two other churches dedicated to him in Wales. It is a small village, containing little more than a small church and public-house. It is delightfully situated

ated in a vale, bounded by Snowdon and its surrounding mountains, and this vale affords one of the most picturesque landscapes in the whole county, consisting of a great variety of wood and water, which are frequently wanted in our Cambrian vales to render them completely picturesque. Here are also two large pools, called Llyniau Mymbu or Llyniau Capel Curig; near one of which the late Lord Penrhyn built a comfortable inn, from a design of Mr. Wyatt. In the neighbourhood are some quarries, and several remarkable works, well worth the traveller's observation. It is thought that this part of the country was much frequented by the Romans, on account of its slate quarries and valuable lead and copper mines. There are considerable remains of a large Roman building on an estate belonging to the Earl of Gwydir, between Llanrwst and Capel Curig, near a place called Bryn Gefeiliau (the hill of the smithy); and it is probable that a Roman road passed this way from Trawsfynydd, Merionethsire, to Caer Rhûn. Great quantities of building materials have been taken from these remains for several years past. "I distinctly traced," says Mr. Lysons, "the walls of one room, the dimensions of which were 60 feet by 20, and of another, 18 feet 6 inches square, in which were several short square pillars of stone, like those of the hypocaust under the Feathers Inn, in Chester."

A short distance from Capel Curig is Rhayadr-y-Wenol, a celebrated cataract; the scenery round which is extremely grand, particularly the upper part, where the water is thrown in a sheet down a rock almost perpendicular, after which it varies its course and becomes smooth and beautiful, taking its direction between high wooded banks, entwined by different tints of oak, birch, and hazel, which hang from the impending rock.

About 4 miles south of Capel Curig is Dolwyddelan Castle, situate in the parish of that name, the church of which is dedicated to Saint Gwyddelan, a saint of whom little is known, situated on a high enclosed rock, with square towers of 40 feet by 25, each containing three floors. The walls of the court, once 6 feet thick, are now entirely destroyed, and only a small part left of the other buildings. Mr. Rowland supposes this castle to have been built as early as the time of Maelgwyn Gwynedd, who lived in the sixth century, afterwards the residence of Iorwerth Drwyndwn (or Drwndwn), and where his son Llewelyn the Great was born. The materials of this castle are the common stone of the country, well squared, and the masonry extremely good. Howel ap Ievan ap Rhŷs Gethyn, a noted outlaw, once resided here. At that period, after the civil wars, and the rebellion of Owen Glyndwr, this part of the country was in a very lawless state. Meredydd ap Ievan, an ancestor of the Gwydir family, was, however, the means of reforming it; and according to the account given by Sir John Wynne, he established colonies of the most tall and able men that he could procure, till at last they amounted to seven

seven score tall bowmen, every one arrayed in a jacket or armlet coat, a good steel cap, a short sword, and dagger, together with his bow and arrows: many of them had horses and chasing staves, and all were ready to answer the call on all occasions. He also founded the strong house of Penmanmaen, a mile distant from the castle. At that period there was a gang of marauders at Sputty Ievan, who used to plunder the whole country and put it under contribution. The said Meredydd, however, soon checked and finally dispersed this dangerous banditti. The church of Dolwyddelan, which is small, has in it a monument, commemorating such of Meredydd's family as were buried there.

About two miles to the north-east of Dolwyddelan village is Bettws ŷ Coed, or Bettws Wyrion Iddon, a small village. In the church, which is dedicated to Saint Michael, is an ancient monument to the memory of Davydd, brother to Llewelyn, the last Prince of Wales. Here the road leads into the luxuriant vale of Llanrwst, in the neighbourhood of which are a number of gentlemen's seats; the principal of which is Gwydir House, an ancient seat of the family of Wynne, built at the foot of a lofty rock called Carreg-y-Gwalch, well clotted with wood; it consists of an antique edifice, erected round a greater and lesser court, having over a gateway I. W. (for John Wynne), with the date 1558. Gwydir derives its name from Gwaeddir, or the Bloody Land, in allusion to the battle fought here by Llywarch Hên about the year 610. On the rock, above Lower Gwydir, stood another mansion, called Upper Gwydir, built in a beautiful situation, amidst rich meadows watered by the Conway. The mansion was erected by Sir John Wynne in 1604 with classical taste. On the walls were many inscriptions, particularly over the entrance, where was read this panegyric,—

Fryn Gwydir gwelir goleu adeilad
Uch dolydd a chaurau.
Bryn gweich adail yn ail ne;
Bron wen Henllys bron hinlle.

The entrance has been of late demolished; but the family chapel, standing near the site of the old house, is still preserved, and has service performed in it four times a-year. This ancient seat continued in the family of Wynne till 1678, when it first passed into that of Ancaster, by marriage of Mary, the heiress of Sir Richard Wynne, to the Marquis of Lindsay, and was afterwards possessed by Sir Peter Burrell, Knight, in right of his wife the Baroness Willoughby, eldest daughter of the late Duke of Ancaster, in whose family it now remains, and hence its possessor derives the title of Earl of Gwydir.

About two miles to the north is Trevrew or Trevrhiw, the church of which is dedicated to Saint Mary. Llewelyn had a palace here, and some hewn stones have been found in ploughing a field contiguous, called Gardd-y-Neuodd. The Welsh princes had a hunting seat here, and also some lands, which, after the conquest, became the property

property of the Crown. Llewelyn is stated to have built the church for the convenience of his princess. Dr. Thomas William, a native of this place, was the author of part of the Welsh Latin Dictionary: he was first a clergyman, afterwards practised as a physician, and was related to Sir John Wynne, of Gwydir, by whom he was patronised.

Clynogvawr is rendered remarkable by being the place where Beuno (the son of a nobleman of Powys-land) settled in 616, and, as the tradition goes, raised Saint Winifred to life. He built the church, which is dedicated to him, and which was conventual, St. Beuno himself being the first abbot. It presents the remains of a very magnificent stone building 132 feet in extent, and was chiefly kept in repair by oblations at Beuno's tomb on Trinity Sunday, until the decayed state of the roof made a brief for that purpose necessary. The chancel windows were adorned with pictures of Beuno and Winifred, but the ornaments are now reduced to three whole-length saints. By the steeple on the south side is a very ancient vault; likewise Beuno's chapel, measuring 41 feet by 24; in the middle is his monument, a plain altar-tomb, on which country people lay their children after bathing them in his well. There were formerly brought to it lambs with Beuno's mark, either redeemed or left for the abbot. This custom is still continued to the churchwardens, but greatly reduced in number, as is the money, kept in an old chest called Cyff St. Beuno, which used to be applied to the repair of the church. It is now a sinecure, worth upwards of £200 a-year, in the gift of Jesus' College, Oxford. The church is the most magnificent of its kind in North Wales; it is built in the shape of a cross, the length from east to west 38 feet, from north to south 70. Colonel Twistleton, who took Sir John Owen prisoner in the time of Oliver Cromwell, married the heiress of William Glynn, of Leiar, in this parish. The old church where Saint Beuno lieth is close by the new one.

About 6 miles from Clynogfawr is the village of Llanhaiarn, a place of no note; 6 miles to the south-west of which, on the right-hand of the road, is Nevyn (the church of which is dedicated to Saint Mary), a small town contributory to Caernarvon, bestowed on Nigel de Lohareyn by Edward the Black Prince, and made a free borough, with a hall and every privilege attendant on free boroughs. Here Edward the First, in 1284, held his triumph on the conquest of Wales, and, in imitation of Arthur, held a round table, with a dance and tournaments. The concourse of nobility and gentry that assembled here on this occasion was prodigious.

Near Nevyn is Nant-y-Gwrtheryn, or Vortigern's Valley, an immense hollow, where Vortigern is said to have fled from the rage and persecution of his countrymen, for inviting the Saxons into Britain, and where the monks inform us that his castle was destroyed by lightning. Indeed fancy cannot frame a place more fit for a retreat from mankind, being embosomed in lofty mountains, with an opening only

only to the sea. The glen is at present only tenanted by three families, who raise oats and keep a few sheep and cattle, produced and maintained with great difficulty. Just above the sea is a verdant mount, natural except the top and sides, which appear worked on by art; having the first flatted, and the sides worked or marked with eight prominent ribs from top to bottom. On this might have been the residence of the unfortunate Vortigern, of which time has destroyed every other vestige. Till about the beginning of the last century, a tumulus of stone within and externally covered with turf, was to be seen here, and known by the name of Bedd-Gwrtheryn, tradition having regularly delivered down the report of this having been the place of his interment. The inhabitants of this parish, some time since, dug into the carn or tumulus, and found within it a stone coffin, containing the bones of a tall man. This gives a degree of credibility to the tradition, especially as no other bones were found with it, neither is there any other tumulus near the spot, which is at least a proof of respect to the rank of the person; and that the place was deserted after the interment of our royal fugitive in the year 465 is highly credible. Near Vortigern's Valley is Tre 'r Caeri, or the Town of the Fortresses, which runs from one side of the Eifl mountains to the other, and consists of an immense rampart of stones, or perhaps the ruins of a wall made to block up the pass, and appears to have been a very strong British post. The accessible side is defended by three walls; but the lowest is very imperfect, the next tolerably entire, with a magnificent entrance: this wall in one part points upwards towards the third wall, which runs round the top of the hill: the second wall unites with the first, which, running into a point, joins the highest in a place where the hill is inaccessible. The facings on the two upper walls are in good preservation, especially that of the uppermost. The space on the top is an irregular area; one part is steep, the other flat, and in some places covered with heath; but the whole is almost filled with cells, which are best seen from the summit, where they appear disposed with much art, and of various forms, round, oval, oblong, and square, lying scattered about the plain; others contiguous to the wall, but all on the inside. The upper wall was in many places 15 feet high on the outside, and often 16 feet broad. On the south of Tre 'r Caer is Moel-garn Guwch, a hill of conical form, having on its summit a prodigious heap of stones, seemingly a shapeless ruin, called by the country people Arffedoged-y-Cowres, or "The apron-full of stones flung down by the Giantess," —a tradition very common among the illiterate of Caernarvon, Merioneth, and Radnorshire.

On the road, at the distance of about 8 miles from Llanhaiarn, is Pwllheli (the chapel of which is dedicated to Saint Beuno), a considerable market town and magazine for goods, which are sent from hence to most parts of this county; it has also a good harbour for vessels

vessels of about 60 tons. Edward the Black Prince made this place a free borough, by charter dated in the twelfth year of his principality, and granted the fee-farm of it and of Nevyn to one of the gentlemen of his bed-chamber (Nigel de Loryng or Lohrayne), in consideration of his services in Gascony, and particularly at Poictiers. Giraldus Cambrensis, in company with Baldwin, Archbishop of Canterbury, who was on a tour through the principality in the year 1185, in order to obtain contributions towards the Crusade, remained a night in this town.—About five miles distant is Carn Madryn, a strong fortress of the sons of Owen Gwynedd: the bottom, sides, and top are filled with cells of different shapes, once covered; many of which are now pretty entire, as is a wall which surrounded the summit. About three miles east of Pwllheli is the village of Abererch, where, as some Welsh manuscripts assert, Thomas Puleston, Esq. brother to Sir Roger Puleston, was buried, soon after the conquest of Wales by Edward the First.

About 8 miles beyond is Criccieth (the church of which is dedicated to Saint Catherine), a market town and borough, united with Caernarvon, and governed by two bailiffs. The castle has been its chief ground of importance, though only a small building, and at present in a very ruinous condition. It is situated on an eminence jutting into the sea, from whence is a fine view across the bay to Harlech and its once magnificent castle. From the architecture of this castle it may be pronounced to be of British origin, although Edward the First is the reputed founder; but he seems to have done no more than build the two towers at its entrance, and afterwards appoint William de Leybourn constable, with a salary of £100, out of which he was to maintain 30 men, and a chaplain, surgeon, carpenter, and mason. From what now remains, it appears originally to have consisted of four square courts, and on each side the entrance a round tower; it had also the honour of being the residence of the valiant Sir Howel y Fwyal, who disputed the honour of taking the King of France prisoner at Poictiers with a Knight of Artois.

In the parish of Llanllechid is a cave, in a field called Caer Gwillim Ddû, where, according to tradition, William de Breos was buried, after being executed on suspicion of too great familiarity with Joan, the consort of Llewelyn the Great. In the parish of Dwygyfylchi, above a place called Gwyddwg Glâs, are numerous circles of stones at unequal distances from each other, the largest of which is 8 feet 3 inches high: on the ground is another, 11 feet 2 inches high; the diameter of this circle is 80 feet. Near this are four others, far inferior in size: in the centre of one is a flat stone, seemingly the remains of a cromlech. About a quarter of a mile from these is a large carnedd, composed of small stones; and not far from it a rude stone, standing upright, called Maen y Campiau, or Stone of the Games. Some of the British games, of which the Welsh had twenty-four,

twenty-four, may probably have been celebrated here: the principal of these were,—1. Strength to raise weights; 2. Running; 3. Leaping; 4. Wrestling; 5. Riding. The last (Marchogaeth) probably included driving small cars or chariots. In the parish of Bryncroes, on the lands of Tymawr, was discovered, some years ago, a cistvaen, or stone coffin, containing an urn with burnt bones and ashes; and near a house called Monachdy there was formerly a cromlech, but at present there is only one stone remaining. There are, however, several cromlechs in different parts of this county.

Aberdaron (the church of which is dedicated to Saint Howyn, a saint of the island of Bardsey) is situate on the river Daron, which discharges itself into Saint George's Channel. Aberdaron was formerly much resorted to, being the place where devotees usually took boat for the island of Bardsey. There is a house in this parish still known by the name of Court, where, in former times, courts were held for the manor of Bardsey; an eminence near it, called Bryn y Grogbren (the Gallows Hill); and another house in the neighbourhood, called Secar (the Exchequer). In a hollow, between two hills called Uwch Mynydd and Mynydd y Gwyddel, are the ruins of Saint Mary's chapel (Capel Fair), and below the clift is a cave called Ogo Vair, in which there is a well (Ffynnon Fair): the point of the rock is called Braich y Pwll, and that particular part of it under which the well is situated Maen Melyn (the yellow stone). In times of popery this well, which was only accessible at low water, was much frequented by devotees, who superstitiously believed that if they could but carry a mouthful of water by a circuitous and dangerous path to the summit of the hill, their wish, whatever it might be, would be surely gratified. The chapel was placed here to give seamen an opportunity of invoking the tutelar saint for protection through the dangerous sound of Bardsey; and probably the walls of the chapel were in those superstitious times covered with votive tablets.

Bettws Garmon (the chapel of which is dedicated to Saint Garmon, i. e. Germanus, one of the most distinguished of the British saints,) is most romantically situate near the river Gwyrvai, in a narrow valley between high mountains; and the cascade and scenery about Nantmill are greatly admired. Mr. Rowland states that there was a fort in ancient times near Castell Cidwm, at the foot of Mynyddmawr mountain; but in all probability he was misinformed, as the remains of such a building are still visible on the north side of the vale above Carreg Goch, not far from Trevlan. Cawellyn Lake, anciently called Llyn Tarddynni, is in this parish; it abounds with trout and char: one ascent to Snowdon commences near this pool. There is a fine spring of water on the side of a hill about a mile west of the church, called Saint Garmon's Hill, which is reputed to be efficacious in rheumatic complaints and eruptive disorders.

Bodverin (the chapel of which is dedicated to Saint Merin, but now in

in ruins) is situate on the Irish sea. In this parish is a small creek called Porth Verin, and another called Porth Iago; and a well, near a place called Trevgraig, which is the source of the river Daron: it is known by the name of Ffynnon Bibau. On the side of the hill called Mynnydd Moelvre, or Mynnydd yr Ystum, are the ruins of an old chapel, called Capel Odo; and near it is a tumulus, distinguished by the appellation of Bedd Odo, or Odo's grave, who according to tradition was a great giant.

Caer Hên (the old town), otherwise Caer Rhûn, the fortress of Rhûn, a prince of that name, has a church dedicated to Saint Mary. In the 16th volume of the Archæologia, page 127, is a description of Roman antiquities discovered here, by Samuel Lysons, Esq. whose taste, judgment, and accuracy are so universally known. All writers, says this gentleman, on the subject of Roman stations in this island, agree in opinion that Caer Rhûn, a small village on the river Conway, is the site of the ancient Conovium, a station which occurs in the 11th iter of Antoninus's Itinerary, and in the 1st of that of Richard of Cirencester. Camden supposes the name Caerhun to be a corruption of Caer hên, i. e. the Old City; but says that the common tradition of the neighbourhood was, that it received its name from Rhûn ap Maelgwyn Gwynedd. It is certain that in very ancient writings it is called Caerhun, whatever may be the etymology of its name. Bishop Gibson, in his additions to Camdem's Britannia, says, that not many years since there was a Roman hypocaust discovered at Caerhun; and that he had seen, in the possession of Sir Thomas Mostyn, Bart. some curiosities which he had received from thence, particularly a hollow brick, and a round piece of copper forty pounds weight. The site of Conovium is nearly a square of 260 feet, surrounded by a slight vallum of earth, at the distance of somewhat more than 500 feet from the river Conway, on the next side to which the ground is very steep from the edge of the station. Within this ancient site stands the church of Caerhun, but no dwelling house, the village being at some distance. At a small distance north-west from the church two ancient sepulchres were discovered several years ago, walled and of a square form, containing human bones. In the hilly ground between the station and the river, called Erw Gaer, i. e. the Castle Acre, the remains of a considerable building was discovered several years ago, then supposed to have been a hypocaust. On the 9th of May, 1799, the Honourable Colonel Greville exhibited to the Society of Antiquaries an ancient shield, which was found at Caerhun a short time before, on the east side of the Roman station, on opening an old drain about two feet below the surface of the earth: and at the same time he exhibited several specimens of ancient pottery, discovered at the same place, nearly resembling the red Samian ware so frequently met with in Roman stations, but of a softer substance, and the figures not so well executed. These were supposed to have been manufactured

manufactured near the spot where they were found, as there remained evident traces of fire, and a considerable quantity of fine clay. At the same time the fragment of a small patera of the Samian ware was found, with "Patria" stamped on the bottom of it. In the investigation of these Roman remains, assisted by the Rev. Hugh Davies Griffith, the proprietor of Caerhun, in the latter end of July, 1801, the Welsh labourers, continues Mr. Lysons, "undertook the work with more than usual energy, being fully impressed with the belief that great treasures were buried in Erw Gaer, and having a tradition among them of some extraordinary discoveries which had been formerly made in an adjoining grove. Having examined two rooms which had been discovered several years ago, we proceeded to investigate at the south end of them, and by following the course of the walls, soon ascertained the form of another room (20 feet 9 inches by 14 feet 10 inches), which we cleared out. To the depth of 5 feet below the surface it was filled with large stones, earth, and rubbish, below which was a stratum of black mould mixed with burnt wood, in which lay many fragments of coarse earthen vessels of various kinds; but only two of which retained enough to shew their original form: one of them was an amphora. In the same place was also found a coarse lamp of lead. Bricks of various thicknesses were also found among the rubbish, and several masses of wall, formed chiefly of thin brick tiles laid in mortar; also many lumps of clay, and of a stalactitical incrustation. At the east end of the room was a sort of hearth, formed of large thin stones, placed edgeways in the earth, and large bricks laid flat over them, bearing strong marks of fire. On the north side of the room were two piers rudely constructed; they were built partly of the hard stone of the country and partly of sand-stone. In the spaces between them great quantities of fragments of pottery, several lumps of clay, and several pieces of iron were found, There did not appear to be any remains of pavement in this room; under it was a small drain of stone, covered with slates. Having thoroughly investigated this end of the building, and having every reason to believe that it had not extended any further southward, we proceeded to explore the opposite end, and soon discovered it to be of a very irregular form. In the first room which we now broke into there were no remains of pavement: the fragments of plaster remained on some parts of the wall. The area of this room was filled with loose rubbish, mortar, and fragments of bricks and tiles; among which we found a rude kind of square pillar, 2 feet 7½ inches in height, of sand-stone, exactly similar to those which support the hypocaust discovered many years ago in Bridge Street, Chester,—and a part of a brick funnel, the aperture of which was 6 inches by 4¾ inches, and the sides about half an inch thick. The next room was paved with large slates, in which was a pier, 2 feet 10 inches square, of brick and stone in alternate layers, and 1 foot 4 inches high; some of the bricks were

were 17 inches square and 2 inches thick, others 17 inches by 21. Great part of the walls of this room were of brick, and in some places the plaster was remaining red. At the north-west corner were two steps of stone leading into a further room, which appeared to have been very much worn by use. Under the floor of this room we discovered a drain, varying in width from 1 foot 3 inches to 1 foot 9 inches, and from 3 feet 7 inches in depth to 4 feet 6 inches; the bottom of it was formed of large slates. In clearing out this apartment we found the fragment of a piece of cornice of sand-stone, and a kind of square stone post 2 feet 9 inches in length, with a round hole near the top 1 inch and a half in diameter, and the tenon at the other end by which it had been fixed up. This appeared to have been a kind of vestibule; it is 23 feet 1 inch in length. In a fourth room were found many stone pillars of the same kind as that already described, standing upright and supporting parts of the floor, which was of large slates, others had fallen down. There did not appear any funnels in the walls, or other marks of a hypocaust. On the outside of the building, close to one of the walls of the rooms, we found a stone 2 feet long and 1 foot wide, with a channel cut in the middle as if for the conveyance of water from a spout, and from this were laid a row of seven brick funnels, closely fitted together: they were all of them 10⅓ inches in length, but varied in width, some being 6⅓ inches wide and others only 5⅓; they had all of them round holes on the narrow sides; some of them were scored on the broadest sides. The funnel, represented in Gibson's Camden, and supposed to have belonged to a hypocaust, exactly resembles these. A copper coin of Domitian, and an iron chain of 28 links, somewhat larger than a modern jack-chain, were afterwards discovered by Mr. Griffiths, together with some small precious stones perforated, and part (probably) of a necklace.—The Author laments the disadvantage which the abstract of this interesting investigation sustains, by want of the ground-plan and the delineation of the several antiquities that were discovered in this place, which appears, in all probability, to have been a manufactory of Roman pottery.

Dolbenmaen is a chapelry, and its chapel is dedicated to Saint Beuno. In former times this neighbourhood (says Pennant) abounded with gentry; and the country was divided into two clans, one descended from Owain Gwynedd, Prince of Wales, and the other from Collwyn ap Tangno, a valiant chieftain of the ninth century. From the former were descended the four houses of Cessail Gyfarch, Ystum Cegid, Clenneney, Brynkir, &c.; and the descendants of the latter consisted of the houses of Whilog, Bron y Voel, Berkin, Gwynvryn, Tal Henbont (now Plas Hen), and Pennardd. "The feuds among these families," says Sir John Wynne, "filled the land with blood." Both parties encouraged and protected any thieves and outlaws, who were ready to side with them, and execute any horrid deed proposed to them,

them, in order to be revenged on the opposite faction. Not far from the church is a mount or pretty large tumulus, which, from every appearance, formed the foundation of one of those watch-towers or small castles, constructed of timber, that were so common in times prior to the invention of gunpowder. Near Ystum Cegid are three cromlechs joining to each other, which are possibly memorials of three chieftains slain on the spot: and near Clenneney, on Bwlch Craigwen, is a druidical circle, consisting of thirty-eight stones. Brynkir was visited by the celebrated Lord Lyttelton, who published Letters descriptive of North Wales; the house was then inhabited by a family of the same name (Brynkir), with one of whom (a fellow collegian) he ascended the high hill of Moel Hedog.

Llanfihangel y Pennant (the church of which is dedicated to Saint Michael) is situated between lofty hills, and in a very retired situation; it is the adjoining parish to Dolbenmaen; and Brynkir, the seat of Sir Joseph Huddart, is in this parish. Here are several monuments to the memory of the Brynkir family. James Brynkir is said to have been a great sufferer for his royal master: he was born in 1600, and died in 1644. Here also lies the body of Catherine, sixth daughter of Colonel William Price, of Rhiwlas, and Mary, daughter and co-heiress of David Holland, of Kinmel, Esq. his wife: she was married to James Brynkir, Esq. in 1687, and by him had issue four sons and one daughter, and departed this life August 16th, 1728, aged 65.

Eglwys Rhos or Llanrhos, otherwise Llanfair yn Rhos.—The church (as the latter name imports) is dedicated to Saint Mary. In the township of Bryniau is a field called Gardd y Monachdy, i. e. the Garden belonging to the Monastery; and also the ruins of a building upon an elevated situation, which is supposed to have been a watch-tower. There is also the ruins of an old castle, called Castell Fardre, in a very strong situation near Diganwy, in the township of Pen Clais; it is situate on Conway Bay. In this parish are four very ancient family seats,—Gloddaeth, and Bôdysgallen, the property of Sir Thomas Mostyn, Baronet; the former built in the time of Queen Elizabeth, and still furnished with the old oak and other furniture peculiar to that age. The other two are Marle, at one time the property of Sir Thomas Prendergast, and Plâs Penrhyn, Creuddin, formerly the seat of ——— Pugh, Esq. who married the heiress of Coetmore.

Cyffin.—The church of this place is a quarter of a mile south by west of Conway, but the parish extends in a direction southward to the distance of four miles: the small brook near which the church is situate is called Cyffin, from which it is supposed the parish has taken its name, the meaning of the word is the boundary or confine. At Cymryd, where was formerly a ford over the Conway, a severe engagement was fought in the year 880, between Anarawd, Prince of North

North Wales, and Edred (or Eadred), Duke of Mercia, in which the ancient Britons obtained a complete victory over the Saxon army.

Llandegai or Llandygai.—The church is dedicated to Saint Tegai or Tega Glasog, of Maelan, who is supposed to have lived at the close of the fifth and beginning of the sixth century. It is one mile east of Bangor. The church is situate on a lofty bank above the river Ogwen, and behind it to the north, on a lofty eminence, is Penrhyn Castle, now the magnificent seat of George Hay Dawkins Pennant, Esq. M. P. who succeeded to this princely property on the death of the late Lord and Lady Penrhyn. This house is said to have been built on the site of a palace of Rhodri Molwynog, Prince of Wales, who began his reign in 720. It continued long in the possession of the Welsh princes. In 987 it was levelled to the ground by Meredydd ap Owain, who, in that year, invaded North Wales, and slew Cadwallon ap Ievan, the reigning prince. In the time of Llewelyn the Great it was bestowed, with the whole hundred of Llechwedd Ucha, on Yarddur ap Trahaiarn, a man of rank at that period. Eva, one of his descendants, who had, by the customary division of the lands by gavelkind, Penrhyn to her share, bestowed it, with her person, on Gruffydd ap Heilyn ap Sir Tudur ap Ednyved Vychan, originally Lord of Bryn Ffanigl. The family flourished here for many generations. William Vychan, son of Gwilym ap Gruffydd, and of Janet, daughter of Sir William Stanley, of Hooton, and relict of Judge Parys, Chamberlain of North Wales and Chester, succeeded in the 18th of Henry VI. to the estates of his father, and also to those of the judge, and likewise succeeded the latter in his important office of Chamberlain of North Wales,—an honour continued to several of his posterity.—It is remarkable that in this time the severity of the laws against the Welsh were so rigidly enforced that he was made denizen of England, on condition that he should not marry a Welsh woman; and accordingly he espoused a daughter of Sir Richard Dalton. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, Piers Griffith,* lord of that place, distinguished himself as a naval officer. He sailed from Beaumaris on the 20th of April, 1588, and arrived at Plymouth on the 4th of May, where he was most honourably received by that gallant commander, Sir Francis Drake. He shared with the other men of rank and courage in the honour of defeating the Spanish Armada. After that distinguished victory he joined with Sir Francis Drake and Sir Walter Raleigh in their different expeditions against the Spaniards in the West Indies; but in the reign of James the First, continuing his depredations against the Spaniards after peace was proclaimed, he was called to account, and was so harassed by prosecutions,

* He married Margaret, daughter of Sir Thomas Mostyn, Knight, and had by her three sons, all of whom died young. It is said he built or repaired ships at Abercegin, where there were of late years, on the gable end of a house, his initials, P. G and the date 1598.

prosecutions, that he was obliged to mortgage his estate to defray the expenses,—part to some citizens of London, and part to Evan Lloyd, Esq. of Yale; the latter of whom, in conjunction with Sir Richard Trevor, bought the whole, and sold it to the Lord Keeper Williams in 1622. The Archbishop bequeathed it to Griffith Williams, son of his eldest brother, created a Baronet, June 17th, 1661. His son, Sir Robert, the last owner who inhabited Penrhyn, left three daughters: Frances, who was first married to Robert Lloyd, Esq. of Ecclusham, near Wrexham, afterwards to Edward Lord Russell, third son of the first Duke of Bedford; Anne, who married Thomas Warburton, of Winnington, Cheshire; and Gwen, who married Sir Walter Yonge, of Devonshire. Lord Russell having no issue, generously resigned his part of the estate to the surviving sisters. Sir George Yonge, grandson of the former, sold his moiety to the late John Pennant, Esq, whose son Richard Pennant, afterwards Lord Penrhyn, became possessed of the whole by virtue of his marriage with Anne Susannah, daughter and sole heiress of the late General Warburton, of Winnington. The old buildings stood round a court, and consisted of a gateway, chapel, tower, vast hall, and a few other apartments; and by several ruins their former extent could be traced. The house was rebuilt in the reign of Henry VI. by Gwilym ap Gruffydd. The Stanley arms (those of his wife coupled with his own) were to be seen in the hall windows till the year 1764. By the initials R. G. and the date *1575*, it appears that Sir Rhŷs Gruffydd repaired it in that year. The room above the entrance was used as the office of the Chamberlain of North Wales, which dignified station was, as before stated, conferred on many of that family. The ancient fee was £20 annually. The chamberlain acted as chancellor to each of the Welsh circuits, and each had his seal, which served for the shires comprehended within the circuit: his court for this circuit was held at Caernarvon. The late proprietor, Lord Penrhyn, made very considerable alterations in the buildings; and his successor is at present (1830) engaged in rebuilding the whole on an extensive scale, and in a most magnificent style, so as to render it one of the most complete castellated baronial mansions, perhaps, in the kingdom. The situation is unrivalled in this, or probably, any other part of Great Britain, commanding a complete view of Beaumaris bay, the towns of Bangor and Beaumaris, together with Baron Hill, Fryars, and Beaumaris castle, and a great part of the island of Anglesea, Priestholm Island, Ormshead, Penmaenmawr, and the whole of the stupendous range of the Caernarvonshire mountains, terminating in the peaks of the Rivals near Clynnog. A grand massive, substantial gateway, on a corresponding plan, has been completed, together with a handsome park wall. There is also an elegant chapel near the house for the accommodation of the family; and on the beach there are handsome and commodious hot and cold baths, built by the late Lady

Lady Penrhyn. In the church, which is a neat structure in the form of a cross, with a tower in the centre, supported within by four arches, are several monuments; one (alabaster) of an armed man and his lady* recumbent: they are supposed by Mr. Pennant to have been removed here at the Dissolution from the Friary at Llanvaes, near Beaumaris. Here is also a mutilated monument to the memory of Archbishop Williams, with his figure in his episcopal dress, kneeling at the altar; under it is a long latin inscription. The late Reverend Sneyd Davies wrote a beautiful poem to his memory, which is preserved in Dodsley's collections. Here is also a most superb monument to the memory of the late Lord Penrhyn, erected by his lady, and executed by Westmacott. On it are several figures, represented as lamenting the death of their lord: two full-lengths, the male a quarryman, with the tools belonging to his employment, and the female a young peasant of the country. In the back-ground are several other smaller figures.—It would exceed our limits to enter into a minute detail of all the improvements made by the late Lord Penrhyn in this very interesting parish and its flourishing neighbourhood; suffice it to observe, that about 40 years ago this part of the country bore a most wild, barren, and uncultivated appearance, but it is now covered with handsome villas, well-built farm-houses, neat cottages, rich meadows, well-cultivated fields, and flourishing plantations; bridges have been built, new roads made, bogs and swampy grounds drained and cultivated, neat fences raised, and barren rocks covered with woods. In fact, what has been accomplished in this neighbourhood in so short a space of time may be denominated a new creation, and that principally by means of one active and noble-minded individual, who disposed of his vast resources in various acts of improvement; and by so doing gave employment to hundreds of his fellow-creatures, who were thus rendered comfortable and happy. The slate quarries at Cae Braich y Cefn, the most considerable in Wales, are the property of G. H. D. Pennant, Esq.: the rock has been opened at a great expense, and the quarries are worked with great judgment and to a vast extent, as there are about 1500 persons constantly employed; it is computed that about 200 tons or upwards of slates are daily conveyed down to Port Penrhyn. These quarries were discovered so far back as the time of Queen Elizabeth, as appears from a poetical composition written by John Tudyr, Registrar of the Ecclesiastical Court of Saint Asaph, and addressed to Rowland Thomas, LL. D. Dean of Bangor, wherein he requests him to procure him a ship-load of slates from Aber Ogwen, where it seems they were then shipped, and not at Port Penrhyn. The above gentleman was Dean of Bangor from 1570 to 1588. In the year 1740 the slates were all of one size, and very small; and when a larger kind was introduced they were called doubles, and a still larger

* These are supposed to be Gwilym ap Gruffydd, of this family, and his lady.

larger sort double doubles, and the men counted every thousand of these as four thousand, being equal to as many of the small. General Warburton, proprietor of the estate, being then in the county, called the double doubles ladies, and a larger sort he denominated countesses; a thousand of the latter the workmen counted as eight thousand, and this method of reckoning was continued until Lord Penrhyn took the quarries into his own hands, which was about the year 1782, when his lordship cleared the rubbish that had been accumulating for ages, and opened these quarries in a judicious and scientific manner, and at a vast expense. His lordship also made an iron rail-road from Port Penrhyn to these quarries, being the distance of six miles. He likewise erected a large saw-mill within a quarter of a mile of the slate rock, where slate slabs are sawn into chimney-pieces, tomb-stones, and for other purposes. New sorts of slates covering roofs have also been introduced, and denominated queens, duchesses, patents, &c. His lordship erected another mill for the purpose of grinding down flints, quartz, &c. for the uses of the porcelain or china manufactories; and near it another large and curious machine, for pressing oil out of linseed, and for grinding paint. Lastly, to crown all his other acts of munificence, he built an elegant and commodious new church for the accommodation of the quarrymen, and also a good house for the residence of the clergyman, to which he added a handsome endowment. Ogwen pool, whence the river of that name issues, is partly in this parish and partly in Llanllechid, and abounds with fine trout, which in season cuts red like salmon. Llyn Idwal, another small lake not far from Ogwen, is also in this parish: near this pool, according to tradition, a young prince of that name (Idwal or Edwal) was murdered by his foster-father. It is not an unfit place for such horrid deeds, as it seems completely secluded from the world, and is surrounded by frightful rocks and precipices. The shepherds fable that it is the haunt of dæmons, and that no bird will fly over its baneful waters, which, according to their account, are as fatal as those of Avernus.

"Quam super haud ullæ poterant impune volante tendere iter pennis."

Above it is the dark, tremendous split rock, Twll Du, called by the Welsh Cegin y Diawl, the Devil's Kitchen. Llyn Bochllwyd, situate to the south of Ogwen, and considerably above it, is also in this parish, and the brook which proceeds from it runs into Llyn Ogwen.

Llanfair Fechan (little Saint Mary's) has its church dedicated to Saint Mary, and is situate near the great and tremendous Penmaenmawr. The church is very small, and stands on a small eminence just above the road. Near the sea-shore, in this parish, is Bryn y Neuodd, an old decayed family seat, at one time the property of Humphrey Roberts, Esq. and afterwards of Robert Wynne, Esq. In the beginning of the sixth century Seiriol, a British saint, is said to have lived a hermit between the two summits of Penmaenmawr, where still is to

be

be seen what are called his bed and well; but his hermitage being robbed, the saint retired to a small island on the Anglesey coast, Priestholm, where he built a chapel and a cell, and there he is thought to have died. Immediately under and adjoining this parish and that of Aber there was, in former times, a large tract of land (now at high water covered by the tide) about 12 miles in length by 7 or 8 in breadth, being formerly in possession of Helig ap Glanog, and where he had his llys or court; the whole of which, in the sixth century, was overflowed by the sea. It is now denominated Traeth y Lavan, or the Lavan Sands, derived from traeth (sands) and lavan (sea-liverwort or laver, which here grows in great abundance).

Llangelynin.—The church is conveniently situated (as many of the Welsh churches are) in a very retired place, and nearly at the upper extremity of the parish. It is dedicated to Saint Celynin, who, according to the account given in an ancient Welsh manuscript, called Achau'r Saint, i. e. The Pedigrees of the Saints, was son of Helig ap Glanog, and brother of Rhychwyn, Brothen, and Peris.

Llangystennyn has its church dedicated to Saint Cystennyn, surnamed the Blessed, the eightieth king of Britain. In the east window of this church there is some old painted glass, on which are represented the figures of our Saviour, Saint George and the Dragon, and Justice: in another window appears the figures of Saint Peter, Saint Nicholas, and Saint Catherine.

Llandrillo.—The church is dedicated to Saint Trillo, one of the sons of Ithael Hael. This Trillo accompanied Cadvan into Wales in the beginning of the sixth century. Near the shore is a singular little building, called Saint Trillo's chapel. Not far from the church is a large ruined house, called Bryn Euryn, formerly called Llys Maelgwyn Gwynedd, who, it is said, had a palace on this spot. About the twelfth century it was inhabited by the great Ednyved Fychan; and until the last century it was possessed by a family of the name of Conway, who derived their origin from Gruffydd or Griffith Gôch, Lord of Rhôs and Rhuvoniog. Rhôs Vynach, or the Marsh of the Monks, was at one time the property of Conway abbey. There is a considerable weir near this point, and the bishop of the diocese and the vicar of this parish claim the fish taken here at every tenth tide. In former times, mackerel to the amount of 40 pounds have been taken here in two successive tides.

Llanbedr y Cennin.—The church is dedicated to Saint Peter. On the summit of a hill called Pen Caer Helen is a strong British fortress, guarded by several fosses and strong ramparts of stones. There is a horse-road by the church, over the mountain called Bwlch y Ddauvaen, to Aber. There is a fine water-fall near Porthllwyd, in this parish, not far from the road to Llanrwst.

Llanrhychwyn has its church dedicated to Saint Rhychwyn, who lived about the middle of the sixth century. Near a small lake in this

this parish, called Llyn Geirionydd, lived the celebrated bard Taliesin. In one of the windows of the church is some painted glass, and the following inscription:—Sancte Rhychwin, ora pro nobis.

Llandegwnning.—The church is dedicated to Saint Tegonwy, who lived at the close of the fifth and beginning of the sixth century. It is situate near the river Sochan. In an old manuscript, Llandegwnning is represented as a chapel of ease to Llaniestyn, and said to be dedicated to Saint Gwnning. A tribute of respect is justly due from his countrymen to the memory of Colonel Evan Jones, of Gelliwig, in this parish, who frequently distinguished himself in the late war, both in the West Indies under Sir Charles Grey, and in Holland and Egypt under Sir Ralph Abercrombie. He died at Rose Hill, near Wrexham, 25th March, 1821.

Llangwynodyl, alias Llangwnadl.—The church is dedicated to Saint Michael and to Saint Gwynhoydyl: the latter lived about the middle of the sixth century. The church consists of three naves, and is constructed on arches, on one of which is the following inscription in large Roman characters:—" S. Gwynhoydyl jacet hic 750," and on another, " Hæc ædes ædificata est A.D. M.

Llan Engan, or Eineon Frenin, has its church dedicated to Saint Einion, a saint who lived about the middle of the sixth century. Upon the tower of the church is an inscription, though now nearly effaced, signifying that it was built by Einion, the king of Lleyn. Owain is said to have founded a college at Penmon, over which he placed his brother Seiriol as principal, and where the people of Scandinavia resorted generally to be instructed in the Christian faith: the seminary was afterwards called Cor Seiriol. He also, in conjunction with Emyr Llydaw, founded the college of Enlli or Bardsey, since called Cor Cadvan, from Cadvan, who built an abbey there, and became abbot. On the east, about a mile from the mainland, are two small islands, called Saint Tudwal's. The islands are appropriated for a sheepwalk during the summer months, and are annually frequented by vast numbers of puffins, which breed there in the month of July: there are also a few rabbits on them. Upon one of them are the ruins of a small chapel, dedicated to Saint Tudwal, and which was, some time ago, converted into a barn, when the island was under tillage. Leland has noticed these islands in the following words:—" Almost a mile from Penrhyn Dee, in Leene, is Inis Tidwale, six acres in compass. In it is a little church desolate. There be kept sheep, and there be conies. It is a mile from Penrhyn land by southeast. There is a church in Leene, called Llan Engan Vrenin, i. e. Fanum Niniani Reguli, where was of late pilgrimage to Aber Daron and Enlli (Bardsey). The famous road of Saint Tudwal is reckoned to be one of the best and safest in Great Britain, and it is so extensive, that it would contain the whole navy of Great Britain, with good holding ground of stiff blue clay."

Llanbedrog

Llanbedrog has its church dedicated to Saint Pedrog, who lived about the beginning of the seventh century. On a mountain, about a mile above Castellmarch, are the remains of a cromlech, near a place called Yr Hen Enfail; the top stone is about two yards square and two feet thick, there are three supporters still remaining, and the broken remains of three others.

Llangian.—The church is dedicated to Saint Cian, according to Dr. W. O. Pughe; but Mr. Browne Willis says to Saint Peris. This Cian is said to have been Peris's disciple. On a marble cenotaph in his church is the following inscription to the memory of the brave Captain Edwards, R. N.:—"Sacred to the memory of Timothy Edwards, Esq. of Nanhoran, who being appointed to the command of the Cornwall man of war of 74 guns in the year 1777, and having in the course of a twelvemonth distinguished himself in four successive engagements in the West Indies against the French fleet, was unfortunately, on his return home, carried off by a bilious fever, on the 12th day of July, 1780, aged 49, before he had received those honours from his king and country which were destined to be the reward of his gallant services. His disconsolate widow, penetrated with the deepest sorrow for her loss, caused this monument to be erected. On his arrival in England he was to have been created a Baronet, and to have been elected Member of Parliament for Aylesbury, Bucks." Near the sea-coast in this parish is an old mansion, called Castellmarch, now the property of Thomas Assheton Smith, Esq. Lord Lieutenant of the County. Over the porch is the date 1628, with the arms of the Jones's of Castellmarch, who were descended from Meirion Goch, of Lleyn, viz. Argent, a chevron Azure between three nags' heads erased Sable; and in one of the rooms, over the fire-place, "Vivat post funera virtus." Sir William Jones, Knight, the gentleman who built the house, was kidnapped (according to the tradition of the country-people) and carried prisoner to France, for having given some offence to his workmen; but as he and Thomas Price, of Plâs Iolyn, Esq. were out during the Spanish war, and carrying on their depredations after peace was proclaimed, it is more reasonable to suppose that he was taken and carried away as a prisoner to answer for his misconduct. Sir William Williams, of Vaynol, Baronet, having married Margaret Jones, the heiress of Castellmarch, became thus possessed of the property.

Llangybi.—The church is dedicated to St. Cybi, or Kybi. Here is a fine spring of water, which is in great repute, and said to be efficacious in paralytic, epileptic, and rheumatic cases; the water is rough and bitter to the taste.

Llanarmon has its church dedicated to Saint Garmon, one of the most distinguished of the British saints. Plas Dû is in this parish, an old mansion which had the honour of giving birth to two celebrated characters, viz. John Owen, the well-known epigrammatist; and

and John Evans, Bishop of Bangor from 1701 to 1715, when he was translated to Meath, and succeeded by Dr. Benjamin Hoadley.

Llanystyundwy, or Llanystyndwy.—The church is dedicated to Saint John the Baptist. Plâs Hen, in this parish, is now the property of Sir Thomas Mostyn. Its original name was Tal Henbont, and was the property of the Vaughans, who were descended from Collwyn ap Tangno, the head of one of the fifteen tribes. The heiress of this house first married Evan Lloyd Vaughan, Esq. and, secondly, William Lloyd, Esq. a younger son of Bôd Idris.

Llanelhaiarn.—The church is dedicated to Saint Elhaiarn, who lived in the middle of the seventh century. Near the church is a fine well, once much frequented on account of its reputed sanctity. Y Gyrn Ddu, Gyrn Goch, and Voel Penllechog are high hills in this parish; and Voel Bron Miod, Bwlch Drwswnewl, and Gaer Tyddynmawr are old fortifications and remarkable passes between the mountains.

Llanllyfni has its church dedicated to Saint Rhediw, a saint whose history is not known. The river Llyfni, which rises in the Nanlle lakes, in the upper part of the parish, runs through it and occasions two divisions; out of each of which a churchwarden and constable are annually appointed. The Nanlle Lakes are two in number, and in the direction of Snowdon: one of them is upwards of half a-mile in length and half-a-mile in breadth, the other is nearly half-a-mile in length and the same in breadth, being half a stone's throw distant from each other. The waters from the copper works of Drwsycoed are said to have considerably diminished the quantity of fish in them; but there are two smaller lakes in the mountain, called Llyn Cwm Silin and Llyn Cwm Dŷlyn, that are more favourable for anglers. A great quantity of slate is quarried in this parish, and also in that part of the parish of Llandwrog immediately adjacent, which are conveyed to and exported from Caernarvon. One side of this parish being bounded by a chain of mountains renders the scenery rather romantic; and it is thought that Snowdon, though not less than eight miles distant, appears to a greater advantage from the parsonage-house than from any other place. Craig y Dinas, i. e. the City Rock, is a piece of ground of a circular form, about 70 yards in diameter, rather steep on the side that is close to the river Llyfni, and on the other side run two mounds, a few yards distant from each other, forming a ditch between them; that which is nearest to the platform is covered with stones, as if there had been some building, or that they had been intended for that purpose. The tradition of the parishioners is, that there was anciently a town there, and that there is still money undiscovered on the spot; and that a church once stood upon it. A stone fence now surrounds the green area; and though the idea of its having been once a town is the most prevalent, it is, however, thought to have been an old military position. Michael Prichard,

Prichard, the poet, was born here about the year 1710, and died in 1731. Several of his works are preserved, which possess great merit. Here Saint Rhediw, according to Mr. Owen, was buried; and they shew his well, his seat, the print of his horse's shoe, and the mark of his thumb on a stone. These are some of the remains of the superstitious legends of the dark ages of popery. In the church-yard are the following inscriptions on tomb-stones:—"Here lyeth the body of the Rev. and learned Foulk Price, late Rector of this parish, who was a faithful shepherd of his flock 35 years, and died January 27th, 1706, aged 70 years." Also, "The Reverend Lewis Price, Rector, died May the 8th, 1714, aged 33: this stone was put up by his son, the Reverend J. Price, Vicar of Conway." "Reverend William Evans, died July the 2d, 1732, aged 35." On another stone,—"Underneath lie the remains of Richard Garnons, of Pant Du, Gent. and Catherine his first wife: she was buried on the 7th day of July, 1718, aged 36; and he on the 17th day of April, 1742, aged 77, after having served in his youthful days as a volunteer in all the Irish wars."

Llandwrog has its church dedicated to Saint Twrog.* In this parish is Glynn Llivon, once the residence of Cilmin Troed-ddu, head of one of the 15 tribes of North Wales, but now the seat of the Right Hon. Lord Newborough. It has lately been repaired, and the house furnished in a most costly and superb manner: numerous rare paintings and various antiquities of value have been brought hither from Italy and other parts of the continent. His lordship has also made many improvements about the house, principally by enlarging the park, about which has been built a lofty wall. Dinas Dinlle, a fortified eminence on the verge of the sea, was an old Roman encampment, and several coins have been discovered there at different times. On the 15th of November, 1810, Joseph Williams, Esq. of Glan yr Afon, exhibited to the Society of Antiquaries of London a ring, in the stone of which was cut the Goddess of Victory, with a trophy, which was discovered in the ruins of Dinas Dinlle, a township in this parish, which implies "the fortified place in the marsh," about 80 years ago, and which he had worn as a singular rarity for the last 50 years. Remains of a Roman road leading from Dinas Dinlle to Segontium were visible till within these few years, and two small fords on it are still distinguished by the names of Rhyd yr Equestri and Rhyd y Pedestri, i. e. the horse and foot fords. The following is a list of forts in this and the neighbouring parish of Llanwnda:—Dinas y Prif; Hen Gastell; Dinas Franog, a square fort; Caer Ifridd; Bwlan; Bryn y Gorseddau; Carnedd Angharad; Bedd Gwennon; Bettws Gwenrhyw; Talwrn yr Arch; Muriau Gwilym Ddu, or Tyddyn Tudur

* Dr. Davies, under the word Tiboeth, in his Welsh and Latin Dictionary, mentions a remarkable book, called "Tiboeth Twrog," formerly kept in Clynnog church, and seen by Dr. Thomas Williams, of Trevriw, in 1594. This book was supposed to have been miraculously preserved when the church was burnt.

Tudur Aled, being the remains of the dwelling of the poet of that name.

Llanwnda has its church dedicated to Saint Gwyndav (some say to Saint Beuno). Gwyndav lived about the middle of the sixth century, and was buried at Bardsey. Dinas Dinoeth was an old Roman encampment connected with Segontium and Dinas Dinlle. The late Reverend Mr. Farrington, who wrote a short account of all the Roman encampments in this county, and the outposts connected with them, resided in this parish.

Mellteyrn, alias Myllteyrn.—The church is dedicated to Saint Peter in Vincula. This parish is divided into two equal parts by a rivulet, called Rhydlâs, the western division being in the hundred of Cwmwtmaen, and the eastern in that of Cyfflegion. A river called Cavaen, which runs from north to south on the east part of the parish, separates it from the chapelry of Bottwnog: and another river, called Sochan, which runs from north to south on the west part of the parish, separates it from the parish of Bryncroes. Bishop Rowland, who founded a free-school at Bottwnog, was born at Plâs Myllteyrn, in this parish, and was Rector of this parish in 1572. In 1584 he became Rector of Aberdaron, and Prebendary of Penmynydd; and in 1593 Bishop of Bangor. He founded two fellowships at Jesus College, Oxford, and an hospital for six poor men at Bangor. He died July 6th, 1616, and was buried at Bangor.

Pistill, or Pistyll, is situate upon the bay of Caernarvon, at the foot of the Rivals. Nor far off is that gloomy hollow called Nant Gwrthcryn, or Vortigern's Valley, before described, and which tradition assigns as one of the retreats of that cruel tyrant. Tre 'r Ceiri, the encampments and fortifications in this neighbourhood, so well described by Mr. Pennant, are well worthy the attention of the antiquary; and Carreg y Llam, the side of the mountain next the sea, is a tremendous precipice, along the edges of which are arranged, at different heights, the nests of different birds of passage that frequent this place in the summer season; and below, just above high water-mark, is a curious cave, visited by tourists. The church is dedicated to Saint Beuno. The name Pistyll signifies "the water spout."

Penmorva has its church dedicated to Saint Beuno. A new town, called Tremadoc, has been built in this parish by the late lamented W. Alexander Madocks, Esq. for many years M. P. for Boston; and an elegant new church has also been erected. An embankment, one mile in extent, across the sand called Traeth Mawr, and forming a safe communication between the two counties, has likewise been made by the same gentleman; and at the end of this embankment is a wharf or quay for vessels to load and unload. In Penmorva church is a handsome monument to the memory of Sir John Owen, of Clenneney, in this parish, a royalist general and supporter of Charles the First. He was condemned by the parliament to lose his head, but through

through the interest of Ireton, his advocate, was for a few months imprisoned in Windsor Castle, and then restored to his friends. He died in the year 1666, aged 66. His wife was Janet, daughter of Griffith Vaughan, Esq. of Cors y Gedol. His grand-daughter, Elena Owen, caused this memorial to be erected. Here is also a smaller monument to the memory of Sir William Maurice, Knight, of Clenneney, who died 10th August, 1622. Humphrey Humphreys, D. D. Bishop of Bangor from 1690 to 1701, resided some years at Cessail Gyvarch, in this parish. It was from this part of the coast that Madoc, the son of Owain Gwynedd, Prince of North Wales in 1170, is reported to have sailed for America.

Penmachno is situate near the source of the Machno, from which it takes its name. Dr. William Morgan, Bishop of Saint Asaph, who first translated the Old Testament into Welsh, was born at a place called Ewybr Nant, in this parish. Hugh Machno, a celebrated Welsh bard, who had a poetical contest with Archdeacon Price about the year 1595, was also a native of this parish. There are several slate quarries in this parish; and the church is dedicated to Saint Tudelyd.

Rhiw.—The church is dedicated to Saint Aelrhyw, and is situated near Porth Rhiew, on Cardigan bay. There is also a well here, called Ffynnon Aeliw (a contraction of Aelrhiw), the waters of which are supposed to be efficacious in the cure of cutaneous disorders, particularly one of that description called Mann Aeliw.

Bardsey Island, called Ynys Enlli, or the Island in the Current, is in the parish of Aberdaron, and situate about a mile from the south-western part of the mainland of Caernarvonshire: it is a remarkable fertile plain, about two miles in circumference, and well cultivated. It is venerable for the remains of its ancient abbey, which was originally a large stone building. Not far from the abbey is a singular chapel or oratory, consisting of a long arched building, with an insulated stone altar near the east, where one of the inhabitants often reads prayers. It was founded in the year 516: Lleuddadd or Laudatus was the first abbot, and it was valued at the Dissolution at about £56. It was dedicated to Saint Mary; and here Dubricius, the Archbishop, retired after his resignation of the see of Canterbury about the year 522. Saint Daniel, the first Bishop of Bangor, is said to have been buried here; and also Merddin ab Morvyrn (the bard), Hywyn ab Gwyndav Hên, Cadwallon, Cadvan, Saint Beuno, Saint Padarn, Deirden, Dervel, and many other pious men and saints. Cadwallon, son of Owain Gwynedd, Prince of North Wales, was abbot of Bardsey, as was also Robert, son of Meredydd ab Ivan, who married the daughter of Eineon ap Ithel, of Rhiwedog, esquire to John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster. This island was granted by Edward the Sixth to his uncle Sir Thomas Seymour, and after his death to John Earl of Warwick. Sir John Wynne, of Glynnllivon, grandfather

grandfather to Lord Newborough, purchased it from the late Reverend John Wilson, of Newark, and it still remains in that family. John Wynne ap Hugh, of the family of Bodvel, was standard-bearer at the battle of Norwich, in the time of Edward the Sixth, for which service he had granted to him Bardsey and Court in Aberdaron; and was sheriff of Caernarvonshire in 1551: he married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir John Puleston, by a daughter of Robert ap Meredith ap Hwlkin Llwyd, of Glynullivon. The spiritual concerns are now under the care of a single rustic; although the island is said to have formerly afforded an asylum for 20,000 saints for life, and after death graves for as many bodies; on which Dr. Fuller judiciously observes, "*It would be more facile to find graves for as many saints than saints for so many graves.*" The slaughter of the monks at Bangor Iscoed, in Flintshire, about the year 607, is supposed to have contributed to the population of Bardsey; for many pious persons fled here to avoid the persecutions of the Saxons, and sought islands and desert places, in which they might in security worship the true God.

The undermentioned celebrated or learned Personages were Natives or Residents of Caernarvonshire—Chief Justice Glynne, born at Glyn Llivon; Archbishop Williams; Bishops Rowlands, Vaughan, Robinson, Humphreys, Evans, Griffith, and Morgan (who translated the Old Testament into Welsh); Sir William Maurice, and Sir John Owen, of Clenneney; Sir Howel y Fwyall; Dr. Thomas Williams, of Trevriw, author of a Latin-Welsh Dictionary; Mrs. Piozzi; John Owen, of Plas Du, the Epigrammatist. Also the following Bards:—Taliesin; Gwilym Ddu o Arvon; Robin Ddu; Rhŷs Goch o Eryri; William Lleyn; Hugh Lleyn; Hugh Machno; William Cynwal, of Dolwyddelan, 1590; Cadwaladr Cessail: Hugh Pennant; Lewis Daron; Rhŷs Nanmor; David Nanmor; Roger Kyffin, Rector of Llanberris. Its modern Bards have been Michael Prichard, a poet; Reverend Mr. Farrington; David Thomas, alias Davydd Ddu o Eryri; and Sion Lleyn.

DENBIGHSHIRE.

DENBIGHSHIRE.

THIS county took its name from the principal town, Denbigh, in Welsh called Dinbach, i. e. the small fortification or town; or, from its situation in a retired corner, Bach or Cilfach. Its most ancient name was Caled-vryn yn Rhôs, or the hard rock in the hundred of Rhôs. Denbighshire is bounded on the east by Flintshire and Shropshire, on the south by Merionethshire and part of Montgomeryshire, on the West by Caernarvonshire, and on the north by the Irish Sea. It extends about 30 miles in length, and 15 in breadth. This part of the county, prior to the conquest of Wales by Edward the First, appears to have been possessed by David ap Gruffydd, one of the Welsh princes; for Sir John Wynne, in his History of the Gwydir Family, informs us, " that Henry Lacy, Earl of Lincoln, wishing to make a princely seat of Denbigh castle, by force compelled the children of the said David ap Gruffydd to exchange their possessions about Denbigh castle with him for other lands of less value in the said lordship, in the furthest part from him. The mountains in this county are not so lofty as those of Caernarvonshire and Merionethshire, and the climate is milder and more temperate, particularly in the Vale of Clwyd. Moel Famma, the highest hill in this county, is not above 1850 feet high; besides the mountains in this county in general have none of that barren, steep, rocky, and terrific appearance which constitutes the characteristic of those in the neighbourhood of Snowdon and Cader Idris. A new line of road is opened from Pentre Voelas to Denbigh over Hiraethog mountain, which in its present uncultivated state has a very desolate and barren appearance, and the traveller has to proceed many miles without seeing any human habitation. After the conquest of Wales by Edward the First, the king politically secured his new acquisitions by bestowing several of the lordships on his followers. The castle of Ruthin, together with the cantref of Dyffryn Clwyd, he bestowed on Reginald de Grey; to which were added the townships of Maesmynan, Penbedw, and Blowite, as dependencies on the castle: and out of this ancient cantref was formed the present Lordship of Ruthin, which comprehends several parishes. It remained in the family of the Greys till the time of Richard Earl of Kent, who, having dissipated his fortune by gambling, sold it to Henry the Seventh. Queen Elizabeth bestowed it on Ambrose Dudley, Earl of Warwick; and it is now in the possession of a branch of the Chirk castle family. Reginald de Grey was the nobleman who unjustly possessed himself of Croesau (some lands belonging to Owain Glyndwr), and was thus the cause of that chieftain's rebellion. The king also gave the lordship of Denbigh to Henry Lacy, Earl of Lincoln, who built the castle, and enclosed with

a wall the town he found there. Among other privileges, he gave his vassals the liberty of destroying all the wild beasts on the lordship, except in certain parts reserved out of the grant for the purpose of the particular amusement of their lord. In the reign of Henry the Sixth we find the names of five parks in this lordship.* On the death of Lacy the lordship passed to Thomas Earl of Lancaster, by virtue of his marriage with Alicia, daughter of the last possessor. After the attainder of Thomas, Edward the Second bestowed it on Hugh D'Espencer, as Lord of Denbigh, who proved an oppressive superior, and abridged the inhabitants of the privileges granted them by Lacy. By the fatal end of that favourite it fell again to the crown. Roger Mortimer, Earl of March, succeeded Hugh D'Espencer as Lord of Denbigh, by grant from Edward the Third; and upon his death William Mountacute, Earl of Salisbury, was invested with the same authority. He died in 1333; and on the reversal of the attainder of the Earl of March, it was restored to his family in the person of his grandson Roger: but by the marriage of Anne, sister to another Roger, last Earl of March, with Richard Plantagenet, Earl of Cambridge, it came into the House of York, and so again to the crown. Queen Elizabeth, in 1563, bestowed it as a most valuable gift on her favourite, Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, who soon made the county feel the weight of his oppression. Notwithstanding the tenants made him a present of £2000 at his first entrance into the lordship, he remained dissatisfied, and compelled the freeholders to raise the old rents of £250 a-year to £800 or £900: he also enclosed the waste lands, to the great injury of the tenants, who, offended at his rapacity, arose and levelled his encroachments. This was construed into a riot and rebellion, and two hopeful young men of the house of Lleweni were taken to Shrewsbury, where they were tried and executed for the pretended offence. He had the insolence to mortgage the manor to some merchants in London, and, as it is generally believed, deceived them for their credulity. The various disorders which arose from these practices were so great that Elizabeth interposed, and by charter confirmed the quiet possession of the tenants, and allayed the discontents. These were again excited in the reign of King William by the vast grant made to the Earl of Portland; the same ferments arose, and the same means were used to allay them. At present this and the other manors of Bromfield, Maelor, and Yale remain in the crown, and are superintended by a steward appointed by the king. The noblemen to whom grants were made by Edward the First introduced a great number of Englishmen into Wales as their retainers. Henry Lacy, Earl of Lincoln, brought with him the Lathams, Knowsleys, Curthoses, Pigots, Heitons, Peaks, Thelwalls, Goodmans, Moyles, Jervises, &c.; and many others were

* Moylewike (Molewig); Caresnodooke (Caerysnodog); Kylford (Culffordd); Baghay (Bachau); Posey, of which the king constituted Owain Tydyr Ranger.

were the followers of Reginald de Grey. As the Welsh were possessed of a proud spirit of independence, and had enjoyed the sweets of liberty for many years under their own native princes, the English yoke must have appeared to them intolerably galling and oppressive; some allowances must therefore be made for their resistance to the exactions, tyrannical oppressions, and cruelties of their haughty conquerors. We have a long list of their complaints which were sent at different times to the English king; and as these were but seldom redressed, it is not to be wondered at if these degraded, but still high-minded people, broke out into open rebellion, as was frequently the case. Meirig Llwyd ap Bleddyn, of the house of Havodunos, in this county, resentful of the injuries which he and his tenants received from the English judges and officers, slew one of the first, and hanged several of the latter on the oaks in his woods, by which he forfeited to the crown the lands still known by the name of Tir Meiric Llwyd, or the estate of Meiric Lloyd. The rebellion of Owain Glyndwr may be adduced as another instance: to which may be added the revolt of Sir Griffith Lloyd, of Tregarnedd, who, being indignant at the sufferings of his countrymen under the English yoke, endeavoured to liberate them from the slavery to which they had been reduced, and for a while pursued the invaders with resistless impetuosity; but at length he was subdued and taken, and underwent the common fate of the Welsh insurgents. It may be further remarked, that notwithstanding all the ravages of long and barbarous wars, Wales remained so populous that Edward drafted out of it no less than 15,000 men in aid of his Scottish expedition; and in the 3d year of Edward the Second, the barony of Powys sent 400 men to the same war; Rhôs and Rhufoniog (i. e. Denbigh land), 200; Ruthin, 200; Dyffryn Clwyd, 100; Nanheudwy and Glyndyfrdwy, 200; Bromfield and Yale, 200; numbers far exceeding the present militia proportions.

The principal lakes in this county are, Llynn Alwen, Llynn Aled, and Llynn Moelvre. The chief rivers are, the Dee, the Clwyd, the Alwen, Elwy, and the Aled; the two last run into the Clwyd, and the former flow into the Dee.

DENBIGH,

The county town, is situated on the side of a craggy hill, near the beautiful and fertile vale of Clwyd; but being deserted in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, a new town was built on a much larger scale at the foot of a hill called by the Britons Cledfryn Rhôs. This part of the country, as mentioned before, was given by Edward the First to David ap Gruffydd, brother to Llewelyn, the last Prince of North Wales, who was afterwards beheaded for high treason. It was then given to Lacy Earl of Lincoln, who fortified the town with a strong wall

wall and castle: the entrance is very magnificent, under a gothic arch, over which is the statue of the founder, Henry Lacy, in stately flowing robes; but his only son being unfortunately drowned in the well of this castle, his grief was so great that he left it unfinished. After the Earl's death it went by marriage with Alice his daughter into the possession of the House of Lancaster. Edward the Second gave it to Hugh Spencer. In Edward the Third's reign Roger Mortimer became the possessor, and fixed his arms on the chief gate; and he being some time afterwards executed for treason, it went to Montague Earl of Salisbury,-but was soon afterwards restored to the Mortimers. After many changes it came to the House of York, and now belongs to the crown. It was delivered up to the parliament army in 1646, and appears to have been a place of such strength, that after the Restoration it was thought advisable to blow it up: the ruins are still to be seen on the summit of a rock, sloping on all but one side, which is a precipice. It was built in the year 1280. Charles the First resided in it some time. The breaches about this building shew that the manner of its construction was by two walls, occupying the extremities of the intended thickness, built in the ordinary manner, with a vacuity between them, in which was poured a mixture of mortar and rough stones of all sizes, forming when dry a mass as hard as stone itself; the castle was likewise almost impregnable from its advantageous situation. About the time of Henry the Third, Adam Saliesbury founded and endowed an abbey of Black Monks of the Benedictine order, but it is now in ruins. Edward the Fourth was besieged in the castle; and in the year 1459, Jasper Tudor, Earl of Pembroke, half-brother to Henry the Second, possessed this place. In the following year it was taken by the Yorkists; and in 1468 Jasper returned with two thousand Welshmen, and burnt the town. In 1645 the parliament gained a victory near this town over the royalists; but the latter soon after got possession of the castle. It was besieged by General Mytton, and gallantly defended by William Salisbury, of Bachymbyd: and it is remarkable, that notwithstanding the orders of fallen majesty, in June, 1646, for the general surrender of every garrison in England and Wales, on fair and honourable terms, the first garrison in North Wales did not yield till two months after all the English castles had submitted.

In the year 1828 the town of Denbigh was honoured with one of those national festivals, an Eisteddvod, which was distinguished by the display of extraordinary musical and other talent; and from the numerous and distinguished company which attended, afforded a striking proof of the zealous objects of bardic congresses. The Duke of Sussex was present. The President of the meeting was Sir Edward Mostyn, Baronet; and the Patrons were the Marquis of Anglesey, Earl of Grosvenor, Earl Powis, Earl of Plymouth, Lord Bagot, Lord Dungannon, Lord Newborough, Lord Dynevor, Lord Clive,

Clive, Lord Ashley, the Bishops of St. Asaph and Bangor, Sir W. W. Wynn, Sir E. P. Lloyd, and Sir Charles Morgan, Barts. The Vice-Presidents were fifty-two personages inhabiting Wales, including eight Baronets and nine Members of Parliament.

Humphrey Lhwyd, the historian, was a native of Denbigh; on leaving which we pass through the vale of Dyffryn Clwyd. This is in length from north to south 26 miles, and from 5 to 8 broad, bounded by high mountains to the east and west, and almost shut up by them to the south, except towards the Irish Sea, where it terminates in a marsh at Rhyddlan. To the natural beauties of this vale might justly be added its general aspect of cultivation, most enchantingly diversified by a mixture of corn and pasture ground, with here and there wood lands gently sloping down the declivity of its hills, besides being interspersed with churches and pleasant villages, particularly those near the river Clwyd, where the land in every part swells into a constant variety of inequalities, with numerous inclosures, producing an agreeable variety of pasture and arable lands, which in beauty almost exceed the natural richness of the soil. Through the Clwydian hills is a remarkable pass, called Bwlch Agricola, supposed to have been that through which Agricola marched on his way to Anglesea. That the Romans were resident in these parts is evident from the number of coins found in this parish. In this vale Caradoc mentions a dreadful conflict in 1115 between Howel ap Meredith and Howel ap Ithel, which, after great slaughter on both sides, terminated in favour of the latter. David ap Owen, a prince of North Wales, in 1164, invaded Flintshire with success, and carried away the chief men of the country, and afterwards drove their cattle to Dyffryn Clwyd otherwise Ruthinland.

Whitchurch is situate one mile to the south of Denbigh, and contains little worth notice, except Saint Marcellus's church, which has many monuments to great persons, particularly to Sir John Salisbury, of Lleweny, who died in 1578; and Richard Myddelton, in 1575. The latter was governor of Denbigh castle under Edward the Sixth, Mary, and Elizabeth, and father of Sir Hugh Myddelton, who planned and chiefly at his own expense brought the New River from Ware to London. Whitchurch had a house of white friars, founded by John Salisbury, who died in 1289, and which stood at the bottom of the town. The chapel, though still entire, has long since been converted into a barn.

Llanrhaiadr, or "The Village of the Fountain," is situate on a small eminence in the middle of the vale, between Ruthin and Denbigh. The church, which is dedicated to Saint Dyvnog, who lived about the close of the sixth century, is rather a handsome structure, with a large and elegant east window, remarkable for a fine painting of the genealogy of Christ, executed about the year 1533, and containing

taining all the names of the kings of Israel and Judah up to our Saviour. The Patriarch is represented upon his back, with the genealogical tree springing from his stomach. In the churchyard is a tomb-stone, with an inscription for John ap Robert, of Perthi, a descendant of Cadel, King of Powys, who died in the year 1645, at the advanced age of 95. Here are some alms-houses for eight poor widows, founded by Mrs. Jones, of Llanrhaiadr, in 1729, and each has her garden and two shillings a-week. From an eminence in this parish, called Cader Gwladus (or Gwladus's Chair), there is a beautiful view of the vale between Denbigh and Ruthin, and at the foot of this rising ground is Dyvnog's well (Ffynnon Saint Dyvnog). The fountain is enclosed in an angular wall, decorated with small human figures, and before it is the well for the use of pious bathers. It is generally called Llanrhaiadr yn Cynmeirch and Llanrhaiadr yn Nyffryn Clwyd, to distinguish it from Llanrhaiadr yn Mochnant.

RUTHIN,

Is a large and populous town, most delightfully situated on a considerable eminence nearly in the centre of the vale of Clwyd. On entering the town by the west gate, leading to the water's edge, there is a fine picturesque appearance; a broad street leads to the market-house, near which stands the town-hall at right angles with the church, which is dedicated to Saint Peter. The latter is a handsome building, with a monument and bust of Gabriel Goodman, Dean of Westminster, who died in 1601; also a cross for his father, who died in 1560, aged 84, and his mother, aged 90. John, son of Reginald de Grey, made this church collegiate in 1310, for seven regulars. Adjoining the church were the apartments of the priests; part of which building has been repaired, and serves as the mansion of the warden: but the tower of the church is clearly of a later date. The tomb or monument which Churchyard calls that of an Earl of Kent was probably the burial-place of John, son of Reginald de Grey. Leland mentions a house of white friars in this town, which stood probably in Prior's Street, but there are now no remains. Here was a hospital and free-school, founded by the Goodmans; the latter is still in great repute, and has, much to its honour, produced some of the first classical scholars in the kingdom. Of its castle, north of the town, only a few foundations of walls and the fragments of one or two towers remain, which, from the great thickness, manifest original strength. The stones used in building it are red, whence it has been called Rhudd Ddin. The area of the castle is now a meadow, and another part a bowling-green. The castle and town-walls are supposed to have been built by Reginald de Grey, to whom Edward the First, in 1281, gave nearly the whole of Dyffryn Clwyd, for his active services against the Welsh. It was afterwards sold to Henry the Seventh, but being neglected, soon fell into decay. At present

present the east walls built within the town and its principal front on the west are nearly entire, with a gate, square tower, and battlements. On this and the south side were formerly five handsome round towers, which were well garrisoned in the civil wars for the king, but surrendered to General Mytton in 1645, after a siege of two months; and in the same year was dismantled by order of parliament. In the act of revenge on Lord Grey, Owain Glyndwr, in 1400, during a fair, set fire to the town, and destroyed the greater part, except the effects of the merchants, of which Glyndwr, having plundered them, took possession, and retired among the mountains. Dr. Gabriel Goodman assisted in the English version of the Bible, and translated the first and second Epistles to the Corinthians. He also was the patron of the great Camden, who, by his means, was enabled to take those travels by which the British nation has so much profited.

Near Ruthin is the neat little village of Ffynnon Saint Dyvnog, remarkable for its well, to which we pass (through the churchyard) by an alms-house to a plantation of trees, with a broad gravelled walk almost concealed from day-light by thick foliage. Within this place is the fountain, enclosed in an angular wall, forming a bath of considerable size. Many wonderful qualities are attributed to this water, but it is more particularly celebrated for curing the rheumatism. At this place was formerly a chapel, dedicated to Saint Dyvnog; in the lower part of which were some images of the twelve apostles.

About three miles east of Ruthin is Llanarmon yn Yale (the church of which is dedicated to Saint Garmon), a considerable village, to which great pilgrimages were formerly made with offerings to Saint Garmon. In the church is a monument, inscribed "Hic jacet Gruffydd Llewelyn ap Ynyr," with five bloody fingers on his shield, and a dog at his feet, carved on the lid of a stone coffin.—In this parish are many tumuli, some composed of loose stones and earth, under a layer of soil two feet thick and a coat of clay. In these tumuli were discovered several urns reversed, and a flat stone without urns, besides considerable fragments of burnt bones. An entire skeleton, placed between flags of a proportionate size, was also found in or near one of these carneddau.

At the distance of about 15 miles is Wrexham, to which we pass through the village of Llandegla, the church of which is dedicated to Tecla, a female saint whose history is not known. Near the church is a small spring, under the tutelage of the saint, which is considered efficacious in the falling-sickness, called by the Welsh "Clwy Tecla" (Tecla's disease). It is pleasantly situated on the banks of the Cammeron.

WREXHAM

Is a populous market town, and from its size and consequence not improperly denominated the metropolis of North Wales: the buildings

ings are in general good, and the country around it very beautiful, which has induced many families to fix their residence in its vicinity. It appears to have been a place of great antiquity, being well-known to the Saxons by the name of Wrightsham or Gwrecsam. The church, dedicated to Saint Giles, according to Leland, formerly collegiate, is an elegant structure, 178 feet in length from east to west, and 62 from north to south; the tower, dated 1506, is to the top of the pinnacle 135 feet, and 22 square, adorned on three sides with rows of 25 statues of saints, placed in rich gothic niches. Among them is Saint Giles, the patron saint, with the hind which, according to the legend, miraculously nourished him in the desert. The south is unusually low, with an entrance, called the wedding door. The organ was destroyed in 1641. The inside of the church is very spacious, having over the pillars much grotesque carving, and over the arches the arms of many of the British and Saxon princes. It is not, however, loaded with carving as many gothic churches are, but is plain and kept extremely neat. Here are two good monuments, the work of Roubiliac; the one, in memory of Mary, daughter of Sir Richard Myddelton, of Chirk Castle, who died in 1747, is particularly fine. She is represented bursting from the tomb, and with a countenance truly angelic, in which the mixture of surprise and admiration is so finely and strongly expressed, that it is almost possible to fancy it more than stone. In the back-ground an ancient pyramid, falling to pieces, is excellently represented; and the whole must afford delight to every admirer of fine sculpture. The other monuments are to the memory of the Reverend Thomas Myddelton and Arabella his wife; opposite to the former is a recumbent figure of Hugh Bellot, Bishop of Bangor, who died in 1596. Under the belfry is an antique monument, found about a century ago in digging a foundation for iron gates to the church-yard; it represents a knight in complete armour, with his foot resting on some kind of animal, his legs extended, and a long sword parallel with them, the hilt in the right hand; on the left arm is a shield with a lion or wolf rampant, and round it some large Saxon characters, not legible on account of its dark situation under the staircase. The altar-piece (a fine painting representing the institution of the sacrament) was brought from Rome, and given to the church by Elihu Yale, Esq. of Plâs Gronow, near Erddig, who was interred in the church-yard in 1726, aged 75 years, with the following inscription on his tomb:—

Born in America, in Europe bred,
In Afric travell'd, and in Asia wed,
Where long he lived and thriv'd—In London dead.
Much good, some ill he did; so hope all's even,
And that his soul, thro' mercy's gone to heaven.
You that survive and read this tale take care,
For this most certain exit to prepare.
When blest in peace, the actions of the just
Smell sweet, and blossom in the silent dust.

The above describes an uncommon diversity of fortune attending an

an individual, contains a modest confession, and breathes the proper moral sentiment of a memento mori. This gentleman was a native of America, who went out as an adventurer to the East Indies, and found his speculation, if not to answer his most sanguine wishes, far exceed the probabilities of advancement in his favour. He obtained the Presidency of Madras, and appears to have ruled the colony with most oppressive authority. An anecdote, illustrative of his arbitrary disposition, is recorded in a way that possesses the authenticity which gives it irrefragable proof. His groom having rode out a favourite horse two or three days for the purposes of airing and exercising, without first obtaining leave to authorize his so doing, the governor caused him peremptorily to be hanged up, for daring to use such a supposed discretionary power. For this murder he was ordered to return to England, and having been tried for the crime, by some undetected outlet of the law he escaped the punishment of death, and only suffered a heavy pecuniary fine. He was also remarkable for his auctions. The first of these was about the year 1700. He had brought such quantities of goods from India, that finding no one house large enough to stow them in, he had a public sale for the overplus; and that was the first auction of the kind in England.* The present church, except the tower, was finished before 1472, the former building having been destroyed by fire; but the tower, according to the date upon it, was completed in the year 1506. In 1647, during the civil wars, the church was made a prison by Cromwell, in which several of the committee-men of the Royalists were confined by the parliament soldiers. There are two chapels attached to this vicarage,—Minera or Mwyn Glawdd, so called from its situation on Offa's Dyke, and Berse or Bersham. The principal fair here commences on March 23, and continues nine days, and is frequented by traders from almost all parts of the kingdom. The commodities brought by the Welsh are chiefly flannel, linen, and linen-woolsey. Tradesmen from other parts bring Irish linen, Yorkshire and woollen cloths, Manchester goods, and Birmingham manufactures of all kinds. In the neighbourhood are several iron foundries and manufactories of military instruments.

On leaving Wrexham we proceed in a south-westerly direction, and at the distance of about one mile pass on the right to Erddig, the seat of Philip Yorke, Esq. bounded by two little vallies, well wooded and watered. The approach to Erddig is through a fine wood, overhanging the banquetting room, which is placed on the edge of a murmuring brook: the skirts of a large verdant meadow of peculiar richness and beauty, the walks through the wood, and round the banquetting room, are traced out with distinguished taste and elegance, but infinitely inferior to the works of nature about Ruabon. Wat's Dyke is the most distinguished remains of antiquity in the district,

* Gent. Mag. March, 1829.

district, and runs along one side of the bank between the vales and the extremity, and impending over them are several intrenchments, particularly one of the pentagon form, and beyond it a green mount; these compose what is called the Roman fort, though no coins or other pieces of antiquity have ever been found here or contiguous. Some fragments of a wall cemented with mortar yet remain, and some traditional accounts, which are the only evidences in support of the assertion, are very dubious to the antiquary, if not entirely disbelieved.

At the distance of five miles from Wrexham we pass through RUABON, Rhiwabon, or Rhiw-Vabon, a pleasant village, situate on a small eminence, and around which are the residences of several gentlemen of fortune. The church, which is dedicated to Saint Mary, is a very antique building, with a good organ, given by the late Sir W. W. Wynn. It has also several monuments, particularly an ancient table of marble with two recumbent figures, having round its edge an obsolete Latin inscription for John ap Ellis Eyton and his wife, who died in 1524 and 1526. There are likewise four other marble monuments for the following persons:—Henry Wynn, of Wynnstay, Esq. who died in 1718; Sir W. W. Wynn, Bart. 1749; Lady H. Wynn, the wife of Sir Watkin; and one to the late possessor of Wynnstay, which is very handsome. Dr. Powell, the celebrated Welsh historian and antiquary, who translated into English the Chronicle of Caradoc of Llancarvan, was instituted to the vicarage in the year 1571: he died in 1590, and is here buried. In this parish are considerable collieries. Near this is a great caer, called the Carthen, i. e. Caer Ddin, situate near the summit of a hill, and containing about four acres of ground. Within the area are many vestiges of buildings, the habitations of the old possessors. A fierce battle was fought near this place, between Owain Cyfeiliog, Prince of Powys, and the English, attended with victory to the ancient Britons; which gave rise to a beautiful poem, called Hirlas Owain, or "The Drinking Horn of Owain," composed by the prince himself. "The best wood of Bromfield," says Leland, "is in Rhuabon, a big parish, by part whereof cometh the Dee river."

In this parish is Wynnstay, the magnificent seat of Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, Bart. but anciently that of Madoc ap Gruffydd Maelor, founder of Valle Crucis Abbey, near Llangollen. The former name of this house was Ruabon: it was the property of Edward Eyton, Esq. whose daughter Mary, the heiress, married Richard Evans, Esq. son of Thomas Evans, Esq. of Oswestry, Attorney-General in the Court of the Marches. Their grandson, Eyton Evans, son of Thomas, son of Richard, altered the name to Watstay, on account of its situation on Wat's Dyke; and Jane, sole daughter and heiress of Eyton Evans, married Sir John Wynn, who again changed the name to Wynnstay, in compliment to his own family

family (Gwydir), he being grandson of Sir John Wynn, of the house of Gwydir, by his tenth son Henry, Representative for the county of Merioneth. The above Sir John Wynn, of Wynnstay left that and other estates of great value to his kinsman, the first Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, grandson of Sir William Williams, of Glascoed, Speaker of the House of Commons in the time of Charles the Second. Sir William Williams, his father, married the heiress of Plas ŷ Ward and Garthgynan, grand-daughter to his uncle, William Wynn, of Garthgynan, fifth son of Sir John Wynn, of Gwydir. Wynnstay consists of an old mansion deficient in uniformity, having been erected at different times and in different styles of architecture, pleasantly situated on a rising ground, in a good park, well wooded, and stocked with a quantity of red deer. Part of the present structure appears to have been built in the sixteenth century, by Sir John Wynn, and a part erected by the late Sir Watkin: the whole has undergone considerable improvement by the present worthy possessor. In the park is a handsome column 100 feet high, the base of which is 16, and the top 9 feet, built with free-stone and fluted. Round the top is formed a gallery with a handsome urn in bronze, after an elegant design, cast in London. The base of the column has round it wreaths of oak leaves in the beaks of four eagles, cast in the same metal; on the south-west side is a door, with a staircase leading to the gallery at top, which affords an extensive prospect, but by no means beautiful. On three sides are carved an appropriate inscription, in English, Welsh, and Latin. Near the old house is a good turnpike road, about two miles, on a bank called Clawdd Offa, or Offa's Dyke, thrown up as a boundary between the Saxons and Britons in 761. It is ten feet high, and broad enough to admit two carriages for a long space of ground, called Llwybyr-y-Gâth, or the Cat's Path. Near it is a remarkable tumulus and fine view of the river Dee. Sir Watkin is Lord Lieutenant and Custos Rotulorum for the Counties of Denbigh and Merioneth, and Member of Parliament for the former county; he is also President of the Welsh Charity School in London, and has acquired a considerable degree of popularity from his countrymen by his liberal patronage of Welsh literature. He likewise raised a regiment of horse, which volunteered their services with their gallant commander to quell the rebellion in Ireland, and again tendered their services during the French war to any part of the continent. William Williams, of Chwaen Issa, in Anglesea, Esq. lineal ancestor of Sir Watkin, was the fourteenth in lineal descent from Cadrod Hardd (or the handsome), a British chieftain, who resided at Tremadoc, in the parish of Llanfaithlley, and was lord of Talybolion about the year 1100. Sir William Williams, the first baronet, was a barrister, and Recorder of Chester, which city he represented in three parliaments, in the two latter of which he was chosen Speaker, in the 36th of Charles the Second. He was tried for

for a libel, in causing to be printed the information of Thomas Dangerfield, Gent.; and though he pleaded the law and custom of parliament in his favour, the court fined him ten thousand pounds for licensing the said information to be printed, eight thousand pounds of which he was obliged to pay. Roger North attributes the severity of this fine to the resentment of Jefferies, who had been reprimanded on his knees at the bar of the House of Commons by Williams when Speaker. After the Revolution this judgment was declared illegal, and against the freedom of parliament. Sir William was one of the most eminent lawyers of his time, and appears, by the debates and state trials, to have been the active and zealous advocate of the popular party in the reign of Charles the Second, but was afterwards made (by James the Second) Solicitor-General, and knighted in 1687, and was in 1688 created a Baronet. Soon after the Revolution he was appointed one of the king's counsel. The last public act of his life was the introduction of the act for the preventing charge and expense in the election of members, commonly called the "Treating Act," which still continues one of the principal safeguards of the independence and purity of parliament.—There is an excellent likeness of Sir William Williams in the town-hall of Chester. The present baronet married a daughter of the ancient House of Powys; and report says "he brings up his children to speak the Welsh language," an example worthy of imitation.

Llanrwst has its church dedicated to Saint Grwst, but according to Mr. Pennant to Saint Reisted or Restitutus, who was Bishop of London about the year 360. Adjoining the church is a chapel, built in the year 1633 by Sir Richard Wynn, of Gwydir, from a design of Inigo Jones. Against the wall at the west end of the latter are five brass plates, chiefly remarkable for the excellence of their execution, by Silvanus Crew and William Vaughan (who is pronounced to be the best engraver); each, besides an inscription, contains a portrait of the person to whose memory it was erected, as under:—Sarah Wynn, wife of Sir Richard,* who died in 1671; Sir John Wynn, 1626; Sydney Wynn his wife†, 1632; Owen Wynn, 1660; Mary, his wife, 1653. To this chapel has lately been removed an ancient monument of Howel Coytmor, which used to lay in the church under the stairs leading to the gallery. It is an armed recumbent figure, with his foot resting upon a lion, and this inscription,—"Hic jacet Howel Coytmor ap Gruffydd Vychan ap Gruffydd, Arm." Near this place is a large stone coffin, supposed to have been that of Llewelyn ap Iorwerth, who was interred in the abbey of Conway in 1240, but removed here upon the dissolution of that monastery, about the 26th of Henry the Eighth. There are no other monuments deserving of notice, except one, which has a long and curious inscription, containing

* He attended Charles the First to Spain in 1623, and of this expedition has given an interesting description in some of his letters to his father, which have been published.

† She was the daughter of Sir William Gerrard, Chancellor of Ireland.

ing a pedigree of the Wynn family from Owain Gwynedd to Sir Richard Wynn. Between the town and Gwydir is an elegant bridge thrown over the Conway, constructed in 1636 by the ingenious Inigo Jones, who was a native of this place, and it was at that period considered one of the wonders of Wales.

About four miles to the south of Llanrwst is Gwytherin. The church is dedicated to Saint Gwytherin; but according to Ecton's Thesaurus Gwytherin is dedicated to Saint James, and according to others to Saint Elerius. It is celebrated for the honour of having first received the remains of Saint Winifred after her *second* death; for, according to the fabulous legend, her head was miraculously fixed on by Saint Beuno after it had been cut off by that wicked prince Caradoc. On the decease of Saint Beuno she was warned by a voice to call on Saint Deiver at Bodvarî; by Saint Deiver she was directed to go to Saint Saturnus at Henllan; and by Saint Saturnus to seek a final retreat with Saint Elerius at Gwytherin; but even here her body had no rest, for the monk in a dream was admonished to carry her remains to Shrewsbury. Previous to her death, it is said, that she succeeded the abbess Theonia as governess at this place: in the church is shewn a chest where her relics were kept. Here is also an ancient gravestone, with a cross and chalice (the last denoting the priestly office of the deceased), bearing the words "Hic jacet Lowarch mab Cadell."

At the distance of eight miles from Llanrwst is Capel Voelas. In this chapelry is a great column, with an inscription, in memory of Llewelyn ap Seitsyllt, who was slain in 1021. Here is also a vast mount, the site of a Welsh castle, which was destroyed by Llewelyn the Great. At Tre'r Beddau, near Pentre Voelas, in making the new line of road about the year 1820, the workmen discovered a cistvaen or stone coffin, on the lid of which was the following inscription:— "Brochmael Leia hic jacet et Uxor ejus Canne."

About five miles beyond Capel Voelas we arrive at Ysbytty Ieuan (Hospitium Sancti Johannis). The church is dedicated to Saint John the Baptist. It is a small village about three miles below Llyn Conway. This was once a hospital of Saint John of Jerusalem, and a manor belonging to the knights of that order; and was also their sanctuary until their abolition, when it became the residence of thieves and murderers, who committed great cruelties in the county, but were afterwards extirpated by the bravery and prudence of Meredydd ap Evan, in the reign of Henry the Seventh, as previously mentioned. In the church are monuments of Rhŷs ap Meredith, who was appointed, by Henry the Seventh, Standard-bearer at the battle of Bosworth; likewise another for his wife Lowry; and a third for his son Robert, Cross-bearer and Chaplain to Cardinal Wolsey. There is also another to Maurice Gethin ap Robert Gethin, who departed 14th June, 1598, and Ann Gethin, who departed May 24th, 1598.

In

In the parish of Llangernyw (the church of which is dedicated to Saint Digain, or according to some to Saint Gernyw) is Havodunos, a very ancient family seat. This house was founded by Bleddyn, son of Bleddyn Vychan, a descendant of Gwrgi, third son of Hêdd Molwynog; from whom many of the Lloyds of North Wales are descended.

In the parish of Abergeley or Abergelau (the church of which is dedicated to Saint Michael), on one of the lime-stone hills, is Coppa'r Wylva, a strong British post.—In this parish is Bryn Ffanigle, once the residence of Marchudd ap Cynan, head of one of the fifteen tribes, and afterwards of his descendant, Ednyved Vychan, Minister and General to Llewelyn the Great.

Cerrig y Druidion (the stones of the Druids), or Llanvair Vagdalen (Saint Mary Magdalene), has its church dedicated to Saint Mary Magdalene. The large stones from which this place is supposed to have taken its name have been removed many years, and the description given of them by Mr. Pennant was taken from the Annotator on Camden: the largest, it appears, was a fine specimen of the British cistvaen, or stone chest (sarcophagus); the top stone was about ten feet long, and the supporters about 7 feet each. This monument was also distinguished by the name of Carchar Cynrig Rwth, who is represented as a great tyrant, and was said to have placed those who offended him in the hollow of these stones. At Giler, in this parish, was born that upright and able judge Robert Price, Esq. one of the Barons of the Exchequer, and who strenuously opposed the grant of the Welsh lordships to the Earl of Portland in the reign of William the Third.

Chirk, alias Y Waun, alias Llanvair, or Waun Isav (the church of which is dedicated to Saint Mary), is situate about six miles east of Llangollen, on the brow of a hill, and carries on a considerable trade in coals. The Ellesmere canal passes within half-a-mile of this village, and is carried over the river and the vale of Ceiriog by a long aqueduct, somewhat similar to that over the Dee at Pontycysyllte, but on a narrower scale. Within half-a-mile is Chirk castle, which, like Powys, still retains a mixture of the castle and mansion. It is supposed to stand not far from the site of Castle Crogen, which was the property of the lords of Dinas Brân, and situate on the summit of a high hill, commanding an extensive view into 17 counties. The river Ceiriog runs below the castle to the west and south, giving name to the vale, which was guarded by two mounts, still remaining on each side of the road through the valley, but rendered more remarkable as being the place where the famous battle of Crogen was fought in 1165, when Henry the Second made a most inglorious retreat from Owain Gwynedd. This place is still called Adwy'r Beddau, or passage of the graves. The external parts of Chirk castle retain much of its antique aspect, being a square building with four towers one at each corner, and a fifth in the front, of nearly 50 feet each, which

which give the whole a clumsy and heavy appearance. Within is an elegant court 165 feet long and 100 broad, with a handsome colonnade on each side. The dungeon, down a flight of 42 steps, is said to have been as deep as the walls are high. The chief apartments are a saloon 56 feet by 27, and a drawing room within, and gallery 100 feet by 22, in which are many fine paintings of the family; also of the Duke of Ormond and his son Lord Ossory; the Countess of Warwick, daughter of Sir Thomas Myddelton, and Dowager to Edward Rich, Earl of Warwick, afterwards wife to Mr. Addison, and the reputed cause of his intemperance.

After the death of Gruffydd ap Madog, Chirk Castle became part of the possessions of Roger Mortimer, son of Roger, Baron of Wigmore. The present castle is believed to be the work of the said Roger Mortimer, who died in the Tower, after an imprisonment of four years by Edward the First. On the death of Mortimer it reverted to the crown, and was then granted to Fitz-Alan, Earl of Arundel. Some assert that it was sold by John, grandson of Roger of Wigmore, and afterwards passed to Thomas Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, Justice of North Wales, Chester, and Flint, in right of his wife Elizabeth, elder sister to Thomas Earl of Arundel, but was again resumed by the crown, and granted to William Beauchamp, Earl of Abergavenny. Henry the Eighth bestowed it on his natural son, Henry Fitzroy, Duke of Richmond and Somerset. In the following reign it was granted to Thomas Lord Seymour, brother to the Protector Somerset, and ultimately granted by Queen Elizabeth to her favourite, the Earl of Leicester, and on his death became the property of Lord Fitz-John, of Bletso, whose son, in 1595, sold it to Sir Thomas Myddelton, Lord Mayor of London, in a branch of whose family it still continues. Sir Thomas Hanmer was governor thereof in the time of Charles the First.

According to a paper, communicated by John Myddelton to the Society of Antiquarians, the castle of Chirk was begun in 1011, and finished in 1013. When Sir Thomas Myddelton in the civil wars withdrew from the parliament cause this castle was besieged, and one side with three of its towers were thrown down, and again rebuilt in one year at the expense of £80,000. The entrance is now between two round towers, by a narrow arch near the centre of the front, which had formerly a pair of iron gates, wrought in so rich and costly a style as to be honoured with the appellation of one of the wonders of the county. On the road side, surrounded by the high lands belonging to Chirk Castle, is Saint Peter's Well, formerly walled, and a bason erected, into which the water issued forth; but at present the well is disused, and the bason in bad repair. This well was in great repute for its medicinal qualities about the year 1726.

To the south of Chirk is Llanrhaiadr-yn-Mochant, the church of which is dedicated to Saint Dogvan, who lived about the middle of the

the fifth century. It is a small village, partly in this county and partly in Montgomeryshire, situate in a deep hollow, surrounded on all sides by mountains with summits frequently nearly obscured by clouds. The celebrated Dr. Morgan, who translated the Bible into Welsh, was vicar of this place, but was soon afterwards rewarded by Queen Elizabeth with the bishoprick of Llandaff in 1595, and with that of Saint Asaph in 1601; where he died on the 10th of September, 1604. The facetious, but learned and excellent preacher, Robert South, D.D. was the last rector of this parish. On his decease, the rectorial tithes were appropriated (29th and 30th of Charles the Second) to the maintenance of the choir and the cathedral church of Saint Asaph. At the extremity of this vale, about four miles from the village, is Pistill-Rhaiadr, the most remarkable water-fall in North Wales. Here the river Rhaiadr falls from an almost perpendicular crag of upwards of 210 feet high; thence it rages through a natural arch, between two prominent sides, into a small bason at its bottom, whence it rolls over small rocks through a woody vale into the Tanad, a tributary of the Severn. Nothing can be imagined more dreary than the scenery of the hills and rocks enclosing this fall, and the masses of stone contiguous to its bason; but the whole cataract is destitute of wood, yet so completely composed of simple grandeur, that trees would seem to injure instead of heighten the effect. Near the foot of the rock is a small room, built by Dr. Worthington, for the use of visitors or strangers who bring refreshments with them, and is of great utility in these dreary regions.

Holt, the church of which is dedicated to Saint Chad, is 5 miles north-east of Wrexham, and was once a considerable market town and a place of some importance, but at present is only an obscure village on the west bank of the Dee, though according to ancient custom it is still governed by a mayor and aldermen, two bailiffs, and a coroner, agreeably to the charter granted by the Earl of Arundel in 1410. The villages of Holt and Farndon (in Cheshire) are divided only by the Dee, and have a communication by a bridge of ten arches, built in the year 1345. The church, or more properly the chapel, is built of red stone, is a very handsome building, and seems to be of the same antiquity as the bridge. The scenery about this village is not very pleasant; it consists chiefly of the Dee, which takes its course through low and uninteresting meadows. Of the castle little remains, except its site, consisting of a solid rock, and a moat near the river, which originally formed a small outpost to Deva; some famous outworks are yet visible about it. On the opposite side of the river Roman coins have been found; Mr. Pennant saw some of Antoninus, Galienus, Constantinus, and Constantius. This is the situation that Camden calls the ancient Castrum Leonis, a name probably obtained from the 20th Legion, when stationed near this place; and (confirmatory of this) it was called by the Welsh Castell Lleon,

Lleon, as it was garrisoned by a detachment of a legion stationed at Chester. This castle was defended on three sides by a trench 40 or 50 yards wide, cut out of the solid rock; indeed, from the colour of the grit used in the building, the whole was probably taken from this trench to erect the superstructure. The fortress consisted of five bastions, four of which were round and the remaining one next the river square, its entrance by a draw-bridge over the trench, on the west side; but by its present appearance it is impossible to form an idea of its ancient strength or mode of defence. In the reign of King Henry the Third and the beginning of Edward the First the castle and lands about it were the property of Madog ap Gruffydd, Lord of Dinas Brân, and upon the death of his two sons, Madog and Llewelyn, who were wards of John Earl of Warren and his friend Roger Lord of Wigmore, who, according to a doubtful tradition, caused them to be drowned under Holt bridge, the two Barons took possession of their respective lordships. Richard the Second, on his departure for Ireland, deposited jewels here to the amount of 200,000 marks in money, which on his deposition were surrendered to the governing power. Henry the Eighth, in 1534, gave this lordship to his natural son the Duke of Richmond; but Thomas Seymour, brother to the Protector, had it in the next reign, and formed here a magazine of stores. The castle was garrisoned for Charles the First in 1643, but besieged by the parliament in 1645, and with four others entirely demolished. The lordship now belongs to the crown, under the direction of the Steward of Bromfield and Yale, an office at his Majesty's disposal; but a grant of the minerals was made to the Grosvenor family in the reign of Charles the First, which is far more valuable, and subject to the annual payment of only 20 shillings.

Three miles north-west of Holt is the village of Gresford, chiefly noticed for its beautiful church (dedicated to All Saints) and its six bells, formerly allowed to excel all others. The church stands on a rising ground at the end of the village, and is built of free-stone, in length 123 feet and 59 feet broad, with a quadrangular tower 90 feet high, and on the one side a fine statue of Henry the Seventh. The east window, which is 21 feet by 14, has been full of beautiful groups, appearing to have been the history of the several saints to whom the church is dedicated, with a few figures, the Virgin Mary, &c in the middle, and under each various sentences in her praise: her history is also in the last window of the north aisle. Within the church are two ancient monuments; one appears to have been erected to the memory of Ithel ap Ednyved, on whom Prince Bleddyn ap Cynvyn bestowed the townships of Gresford and Alington; the other is a figure completely armed with mail, a surcoat, and round helmet, his legs are not crossed, but there is a lion at his feet, and likewise on his shield, bearing this inscription,—"Hic jacet Madog ap Llewelyn ap Gruffydd." He was Lord of Eyton and Ruabon, and was buried

on

on Saint Matthias's-day, 1331. Here are also some mural monuments of the Trevors of Trevalyn.—Upper Gwersyllt, the seat of J. C. H. Cawley, Esq. is in this parish: it formerly belonged to Colonel Robinson, a distinguished Royalist, who on the death of Charles the First was obliged to leave the country. Chancellor Jefferies was sixth son of John Jefferies, of Acton Park, in this neighbourhood. His conduct as a chancellor was able and upright, but as a politician he was unrestrained by principle, and devoted to the worst measures of an infatuated court. Since the year 1576 Gresford has had four episcopal vicars; viz. Bishop Hughes, of Saint Asaph; Bishop Bellot, of Chester; Bishop Parry, of Saint Asaph; and Bishop Lloyd, of Bangor. The last-named prelate built a suitable vicarage-house, which, together with the church, was greatly improved by the late incumbent. Leland says, "Gresford is as pretty a church as Wrexham, having a steeple seven-score feet high, besides the four pinnacled towers."

LLANGOLLEN

Is a very extensive parish, and beautifully seated on the banks of the Dee. The beauties of the Vale of Llangollen are celebrated both in prose and verse; and the traveller may here have a view of the beautiful, the grand, and the sublime. It is watered by "Deva's wizard stream," and has a canal from Pontycysyllte aqueduct the whole length of the vale to the foot of Oernant slate quarries; the river Dee is here crossed by a bridge of four large arches, erected on a rock, where it would seem impossible to fix a good foundation, and is ascribed to John Trevor, Bishop of Saint Asaph in the year 1400, but was repaired in 1656. The Dee rolls through this vale over cataracts at almost every ten yards, but beautifully diversified with meads, woodlands, and hills, finely interspersed with houses. This vale in richness cannot be compared with the Vale of Clwyd; neither is it equal in picturesque scenery to the Vale of Ffestiniog. The Eglwyseg rocks, a formal range of lime-stone crags on the north-east side, greatly disfigure some of its most beautiful scenes; but the prospect towards the plain of Salop is uncommonly striking and beautiful. On the whole it is a desirable situation for those who wish to retire from the noise and bustle of large towns. The neighbourhood of Llangollen has also for many years been celebrated, on account of its having been selected as a place of retirement, early in life, by two distinguished ladies, Lady Eleanor Butler and Miss Ponsonby, who were induced to fit up, in a truly characteristic style, an elegant little cottage. The two rooms which are allotted for the inspection of strangers are very handsomely furnished, and the dining room is ornamented with numerous drawings of some of the most favourite scenes in its vicinity, and the window commands a prospect of the mountains, which are beautiful, in front; and the study, containing

containing a good selection of modern books, looks on the well-arranged plantations adjoining. The whole, though thus veiled in obscurity, is an enviable retreat, and well worth the attention of travellers. Leland says, "In the rock side that Castell Dinas Brân standeth on an eagle breedeth every year, and doth sorely assault him that destroyeth the nest, going down in one basket and having another over his head to defend him from the sore stripes of the eagle. Llangothlan is nine miles above Holt; and there is a great stone bridge over the Dee."

About two miles north of Llangollen is Valle Crucis, or Llan Egwest Abbey, situate in the centre of a small verdant meadow at the foot of Bron-vawr, a high hill in the township of Mâes-yr-Ychen. It is, perhaps, one of the most beautiful and secluded situations in the kingdom, surrounded by high mountains and abrupt rocks towering rudely into the air, with a bottom in many places covered with wood, besides a fine winding river, verdant meadows, and in front an ancient and truly-majestic ruin, affording some elegant specimens of gothic architecture. Of all this ancient pile the church only is in any state of preservation, and the body of that is nearly choked with the ruins. This circumstance, with the addition of several large trees rising among the fragments, render it very difficult to take a measurement; it appears to have been 180 feet long, the nave 31 broad, and the side aisle 13. This abbey was founded by Madog ap Gruffydd Maelor, Lord of Bromfield, and grandson (by the mother's side) to Owain Gwynedd, Prince of Wales about the year 1200. It was a house for Cistercians, and dedicated to the Virgin Mary, with a revenue of £188 per annum; and since its dissolution appropriated to the tithes of Wrexham and Llangollen. The last abbot was John Hern: two of the abbots, viz. David and John, were highly celebrated by the bard Gwttwn Owain for their hospitality and charitable deeds. Of the magnificence of this ancient monastery no adequate description can possibly be given by what remains, consisting of only two gables and the south transept. The west front has also a handsome round-arched door, with two of its mouldings adorned with a kind of nail-head quatrefoil, and over it in a round arch are three lancet windows, with a circular or marigold one above, containing eight divisions and a mutilated inscription. The west gable has three long lancet windows from the ground, and over them two others, with a singular kind of pilaster dropping from them. The north transept had an east aisle, and at its north end an arch like a tomb. The south-east pillars of the nave are still standing, but every thing to the north is destroyed. Tradition says, this monastery had a number of chapels, governed by their priests, and so distinguished that the service of one did not disturb the other. The cloister on the south side is now converted into a dwelling house, with

with two doors and two windows, one of which is remarkable for its rich tracing. Three rows of groined arches on single round pillars support the dormitory, now converted into a hay-loft, which is approached by steps from without. A chimney in one of the bedrooms has the relic of a sepulchral monument, with a broken inscription. The floors are remarkably thick, and partly supported by rows of gothic arches. It is now the property of the family of Trevor Hall.—In a meadow about a quarter of a mile from the abbey may be seen the pedestal and mutilated parts of the pillar of Eliseg, the earliest inscribed British one now existing, and erected upwards of a thousand years ago: it was entire till the rebellion in the time of Oliver Cromwell, when it was thrown down by some ignorant fanatics. It was a sepulchral cross, and consequently a memorial of the dead. It is said that the stone, when complete, was 12 feet high, but it is now reduced to 6 feet. It lay neglected until Mr. Lloyd, of Trevor Hall, in 1799, caused this valuable remain of antiquity to be raised from obscurity and erected on its pedestal, though only the upper part of the original shaft. The original inscription was correctly transcribed by Mr. Edward Lhwyd, the antiquary.

Castell Dinas Brân is situate on a vast conical hill just opposite to Llangollen, and 1 mile from Valle Crucis: the hill towards the summit is so very steep on every side as to render the ascent dangerous and fatiguing, notwithstanding the narrow path which runs under an arch from its eastern point. The area consists of little more than ruins of a large building, which appears to have been about 300 feet long and 150 broad, occupying the whole summit of a mountain; and from its extremely elevated situation must have been a place of great strength. On the side where it is least steep, it was defended by trenches cut out of the solid rock, having on the inside a building with two windows as of a chapel, and some fragments of a tower, which, with a few scattered walls, constitute the whole of its present remains. Of the origin of this castle there has been some dispute: however, the style of its architecture is an indisputable proof of its being founded by the Britons, although antiquarians and sage tradition attribute it to Brennus, the Gallic general, who, it is said, came into Britain to contend with his brother Belinus; but this story is evidently ill-founded. Notwithstanding the preceding contradictions, we do not pretend to fix a period when this became a military station; but the present ruins will justify the assertion of this structure being of the time of, and probably erected by, Gruffydd ab Madog. In the reign of Henry the Third (1257) the castle served as an asylum to the traitor Gruffydd, who, basely taking part with the enemies of his country, was compelled to secure himself in this ærial fastness. In 1390 this castle was inhabited by Myfanwy Fechan, a most beautiful and accomplished female, descended from the house of Tudor Trevor. She was beloved by Howel ap Eynion Llygliw, an illustrious bard,

who

who addressed her in a charming ode. When or by whom the castle was demolished is equally abstruse as its origin. Tradition reports that it was once destroyed by fire as early as the tenth century. Leland mentions that he saw some considerable ruins of it in his time. From Castle Dinas Brân the views are extensive and beautiful, perhaps no where more so, excepting those of Snowdon or Cader Idris. It is remarkable, considering the perpendicular height of this hill, which is nearly 600 yards, that the two wells within the castle walls are never deficient in water. The springs are probably supplied from the adjacent mountains of Gliseg, which are considerably higher than the castle, and even detached from it by an immense deep and long vallum. The declivity is much steeper towards Gliseg rocks than Llangollen; but even this side cannot be approached on horseback nearer than a quarter of a mile. Within that space the castle walls were defended by long and deep intrenchments of earth, while immediately under appears a deep fosse, excavated from the solid rock (the materials were probably used in erecting the fortifications), with two entrances by a draw-bridge over the fosse. The two principal eminences are denominated Craig Arthur (Arthur's Crag), and Craig y Vorwyn (the Maid's Crag). Bwlch y Rhiw Velen, a narrow pass between the mountains to Ruthin, is mentioned by Llywarch Hên as the place where two of his sons perished in battle.

Hênllan (the old church), alias Hênllan yn Rhuvoniog, has its church dedicated to Sadwrn. This place is remarkable (as Mr. Pennant jocularly observes) for the schism between the church and the steeple, the first having retreated into the bottom, while the last maintains its station on the top of the hill. Here was interred Sir Peter Mitton, Knight, descended from Richard Mitton, of Ruddlan, and Ellen, daughter of John (Aer Hên) Conway, of Bod Ruddan. Sir Peter was Chief Justice of North Wales, a Master in Chancery, Prothonotary and Clerk of the Crown: died November 4, 1637. He had the honour of representing the borough of Caernarvon. Sir Peter acquired the estate of Llannerch by purchase from Edward Griffiths, Esq. his mother's eldest brother, which passed with his daughter to Robert Davies, of Gwysaney, Esq. Not far from hence are the remains of a seat of Meredydd ap Meirchion, once Lord of Is Dulas. Part is now standing, particularly the chapel, which serves for a farm-house; but some very extensive foundations shew its former importance.

Llangwm Dinmael (the church in the hollow in the district of Dinmael) is situate on the banks of the Geirw river. Here are the ruins of an old building, called Llys Dinmael, i. e. the Palace of Dinmael, a petty prince, who according to tradition resided at it. The ruins of the two chapels, called Gwynog and Noethon, were of late years visible near the mill. The Geirw forms a beautiful cataract near the high road, at a place called Glyn Diffwys.

Llanddoged

Llanddoged has its church dedicated to Saint Doged, who was the son of Cedig ap Ceredig ap Cunedda, a reputed saint, who flourished about the middle of the seventh century. Browne Willis says it is dedicated to Dogvan; but this was another British saint, and one of the sons of Brychan, who lived in the fifth century. The village is pleasantly situate on the side of a hill, and commands a fine view of the vale of Conway.

Llanelian has its church dedicated to Saint Elian. Here is a well dedicated to the Saint. In superstitious times it was much frequented; and its waters are still considered to be beneficial in various disorders.

Llanddulas (the church on the river Dulas) has its church dedicated to Saint Cybryd, a saint of whom no particulars are known. Here are some lime-rocks, in one of which is a large cave called Ceven Ogo, the entrance to which resembles the portal of a cathedral.

Llanfair Talhaiarn has its church dedicated to Saint Talhaiarn, but according to some to Saint Mary. Dr. W. O. Pughe asserts that Talhaiarn, chaplain to Emrys Wledig,* lived at a place in Rhuvoniog, where a church was afterwards dedicated to his memory. In this parish, on the banks of the river Elwy, at a place still called Yr Hên Llys (the old palace), are the ruins of one of the residences of Hedd Molwynog, who was descended from Rhodri Mawr (Roderig the Great), King of Wales. It was surrounded by a large moat, which is still visible. Molwynog was founder of one of the fifteen tribes of North Wales, and was cotemporary with Owain Gwynedd, Prince of North Wales. The church is situated in a beautiful, well-wooded valley, between the rivers Elwy and Aled, and nearly at the conflux of the two streams. William Wynne, of Melai, in this parish, Esq. was a great sufferer in the loyal cause: he was killed in a battle at Wem, in the county of Salop, in 1643, aged 31. He raised a troop of horse and a regiment of foot at his own expense; and a handsome monument, with a Latin inscription, commemorates his loyalty and good deeds. His son, John Wynne, Esq. married Dorothy, daughter of Owain Salisbury, of Rûg, Esq.: their son, William, married Margaret, daughter and heiress of Hugh Lloyd, Esq. of Segroid; and their son, John, married Sydney, second daughter of Sir W. Williams, of Llanvorda, Bart. The Rev. Evan Evans, the Welsh bard, was for some time curate of this parish; and the parish clerk, at the same time, was also a good poet.

Llansannan has its church dedicated to Saint Sannan. The village is situated in a well-sheltered valley, near the river Aled. William Salisbury, the translator of the New Testament into Welsh, was a native

* This Talhaiarn was a celebrated bard, and a distinguished saint of the congregation of Catwg, in the close of the fifth and the beginning of the sixth centuries. He composed a prayer, which has always been the formula used in the Gorsedd Morganwg, or Session of the Bards of Glamorgan. When Prince Emrys Wledig was slain Talhaiarn turned hermit.

native of Cae Dû, in this parish, and lived some time at Plàs-issa (Llanrwst). Tudur Aled, the Welsh bard, was a native of Garth Geri yn Chiwbren, in this parish: he flourished in the year 1490, and was a pupil of David ap Edmond. Saint Sannan is said to be interred at Gwytherin, near the remains of Saint Winifred.

Llangynhafal has its church dedicated to Saint Cynhaval, who lived in the middle of the seventh century. This parish is bounded on the east by a beautiful serrated line of hills; one of which (called Moel Famma) is remarkable for the volcanic appearances it exhibits, particularly on the Flintshire side: it is one of the highest, and is crowned with a tower, to commemorate one of Nelson's victories, and the Jubilee of our late good and gracious King George the Third. Some etymologists whimsically derive the name of this parish from Llan-can-afal, i. e. the village of the hundred apples; and in support of this hypothesis they relate a ridiculous tradition, of a truly legendary kind, viz. that at a period of episcopacy very remote, and less pure than the present, this valuable benefice was procured by the present of *one hundred apples;* and to render the boon more acceptable to the Right Rev. Patron, and more efficient to the applicant, this worthy *son of Simon* dexterously inclosed a guinea in each apple. According to Mr. Owen, William Wynn, A.M. an eminent poet and divine, of the family of Rhaged in Meirion, was rector of this church and of Manafon: he flourished from the year 1740 to his death in 1760.

Llandyrnog.—The church is dedicated to Saint Dyrnog, a saint whose history is not known. Michael Roberts, Bishop of Bangor, who suffered much for his loyalty in the time of Cromwell, died at the parsonage-house, and was buried on the north side of the chancel, in the year 1665, aged 80.

Llansilin Cynllaith (the church of Saint Silin). This village is about 5 miles west of Oswestry, in Shropshire. Glascoed, in this parish, was the ancient seat of the Kyffins, and the last heiress of that name, married Sir William Williams, Speaker of the House of Commons, and it is now the property of his descendant, Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, Bart. Penybont, formerly a seat of the ancient family of Maurice, and Plas Newydd, once the seat of a younger branch of the family of Myddelton of Chirk Castle, are both in this parish. Morris Kyffin, the excellent translator of Bishop Jewell's Apology into Welsh; Charles Edwards, the pious author of "Hanes y Ffydd;" and John Davies, author of "Heraldry Displayed;" were natives of this parish. The sister of Mr. Davies married Jacob Reynolds, of Chirk; and their son, John Reynolds, of Oswestry, published a quarto volume of pedigrees, collected from his uncle's manuscripts. To the above list may be added the excellent Hugh Morris (or according to the Welsh orthography Huw Morus), of Pont y Meibion, in the vale of Ceiriog, who was born in 1622, and

died

died in 1709, and was buried in this church-yard. This parish is on the confines of the counties of Denbigh, Montgomery, and Salop; and some part of its outline terminates on ten parishes, three in Shropshire, six in Denbighshire, and one in Montgomeryshire. A very interesting history of this parish was published in the Cambro-Briton, vol. 1, 1820, bearing the signature Idris, supposed to have been written by the Rev. Walter Davies, of Manafon.

The following celebrated Men were Natives or Residents of Denbighshire:—Richard Davies, D. D. Bishop of Saint Asaph, 1561, afterwards of St. David's; Humphrey Lhwyd, the historian, 1568: Griffith Hiraethog, a celebrated bard, 1530; Iolo Goch, of Coed Pantwn, a bard, 1400; Edward ap Rhŷs Maelor, a bard, 1440; Rev. David Powell, D.D. Vicar of Rhiwabon, 1580; Rev. Gabriel Goodman, Dean of Westminster, 1601; Right Reverend Godfrey Goodman, D. D. Bishop of Gloucester, 1655; William Salisbury, the translator of the New Testament into Welsh, 1560; Charles Edwards, of Llansilin, author of "Hanes y Ffŷdd," 1670; Morris Kyffin, translator of Bishop Jewell's Apology, 1594; Sir Thomas Myddelton, of Chirk Castle, Mayor of London, 1613; Baron Price, of Giler; Rev. David Jones, Vicar of Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd, 1600; Matthew Bromfield, bard, 1500; Richard Cynwal, Capel Garmon, bard, 1630; David ap Robert, Dyffryn Clwyd, bard, 1530; Rhŷs Goch, Glyn Ceiriog, bard, 1580; John Tudor, alias Sion Tudyr, Wigwair, Llan Elwy, bard, 1580; Gutto 'r Glynn, bard, 1450; Simwnt (alias Simon) Fychan, Ty Brith, Ruthin, bard, 1570; Tudyr Aled, Garth Geri, Chiwbren, Llansannan, bard, 1490; Thomas Prys, Plâs Iolyn, bard, 1600; Sir Thomas Trevor, Master af the Rolls, 1696; Hugh Morris, Pont y Meibon, 1709; Edward Morris, Perthi Llwydion, Cerrig y Druidion, bard,—died in Essex; Rev. John Davies, D. D. Rector of Mallwyd, born at Llanverres, 1620; Right Rev. William Morgan, D. D. Bishop of St. Asaph, 1604, translator of the Old Testament into Welsh; Right Rev. Richard Parry, D.D. Bishop of St. Asaph, 1604,—published a folio edition of the Welsh Bible, 1620; Rev. Richard Lloyd, Rector of Chirk, 1630; Richard Jones, Denbigh, 1675; Rev. William Wynne, Rector of Llangynhaval, 1760; Rev. Peter Roberts; Mr. Thomas Jones, Bardd Cloff, of Llangollen, and of Dovey Cottage, Montgomeryshire, died 21st February, 1828.

CARDIGANSHIRE.

CARDIGANSHIRE

IS bounded on the north by the counties of Merioneth and Montgomery, on the east by Radnor and Brecknock, on the south by Caermarthen and Pembroke. The sea has made great encroachments upon this county even within the memory of man, and tradition speaks of a well-inhabited country, stretching far into the Irish Channel, which has been carried off by the sea. "Of an extensive tract, formerly celebrated for a hundred towns, nothing now remains but two or three miserable villages, and a good deal of ground in high estimation for barley. On the shore between Aberystwith and the river Dyfi, the sea doth frequently, after stormy weather, discover the trunks of large groves of trees. In many places the roots appear so thickly and uniformly planted, in circles and parallel lines, that the shore resembles much an extensive forest cut down, which, from the continual flowing of the sea, appear black and hard as ebony." It is probable that a great extent of country, now covered with water, has been an ancient forest, or at least a well-wooded and fertile country. Sea-weed is the manure for the land of this district; and it is said that for at least these 70 years, crops of barley have been annually taken from it, without any cause for complaining of a diminished produce. The climate is much more mild than the midland counties in England; and in this part of the country snow seldom lies long. The county town is

CARDIGAN,

by the Welsh named Aberteifi, and in Latin called Ceretica. It is pleasantly situated near the mouth of the river Teifi, and protected from the sea by a long projecting hill: the town may be called large and populous, regularly built, and carrying on a considerable trade, particularly in lead, which is exported in large quantities to Ireland. The church (dedicated to Saint Mary) is a stately edifice, with an elegant tower, but situate too near the river: at the end of the bridge which crosses the river is a chapel, said to be erected when Giraldus preached the crusade; and here are also the ruins of a priory of black monks, cell to the abbey of Chertsey, in the county of Surrey. The town-hall, where the affairs of the county are principally transacted, makes a grand appearance. At the close of the last century a new gaol was erected by Mr. Nash, the architect, which, from its situation and external appearance, we may suppose to be a convenient and well-planned building. Here are considerable remains of an old castle, built by Gilbert de Clare in the reign of Henry the Second, on an eminence near the Teifi, consisting principally

pally of outward walls, from which its seems to have been an extensive building and of great importance in the time of our Welsh princes. The castle, like many others, suffered considerably, at different periods, from the vindictive disposition of our princes, and the ambition of provincials. In 1222 we find it in the possession of William Marshall, Earl of Pembroke; but in 1231, Maelgon, the son of Maelgon ap Rhŷs, having by force entered the town, put all the inhabitants to the sword, and then laid siege to the castle, with an intention to destroy it, but the walls appeared so strong and the gates so well defended that it seemed impracticable to reduce it for a considerable time, which would have been the case had he not fortunately been joined by his cousin, Owen Gruffydd ap Rhŷs, and some of Prince Llewelyn's most experienced officers, who directed him to break down the bridge over the river Teifi, which enabled him to invest the castle more closely, so as to batter and undermine the fortifications, which soon gave possession of the whole; however, Gilbert Marshall won it back from Dafydd ap Llewelyn in 1234, which is the last transaction recorded of this fortress. The castle green now belongs to a gentleman, who has erected a house on the site of the keep, the dungeon now serving as his cellar. One mile east of Cardigan, at Llan-Gpedmore, is an ancient monument, consisting of a stone half a yard thick, and eight or nine inches in circumference. It is placed inclining, one side on the ground, and the other supported by a pillar of about three feet high; near it is another of the same kind, but much less; about six yards from it lies a stone on the ground, and another beyond that at the same distance.

Meinu Cyvrivol, or the numerary stones, near Neuadd, in the neighbourhood of Cardigan, seem to be the remains of some barbarous monument; they are 19 in number, and lie confusedly on the ground, deriving their names from the vulgar who cannot easily enumerate them. In this neighbourhood also is Llech-y-gowres, i. e. the stone of a gigantic woman, which is exceedingly large, placed on four very great pillars or supporters, about the height of 5 or 6 feet; two other stones are near, placed endways under the top stone, but much lower, so that they bear no part of the weight; three more stones are adjacent, two of which are large, lying on the ground at each end; the whole of which are indisputably ancient British monuments.

About 25 miles from Cardigan we come to Llansanfraid, situate near the sea, chiefly remarkable for its old church (dedicated to Saint Fraid Leian, or Saint Bridget) and a few remains of old buildings, where it is supposed once stood the abbey of Llanfraid, mentioned in a book entitled "De Dotatione Ecclesiæ S. Davidis," and called Llan-Saint-Fraid nunnery in Giraldus, but whether either of the places was situated here is uncertain, though there has evidently been a great building here.

About 3 miles north-east of Llansanfraid stood an old monastery, called

called Llanrhystyd, erected by Cadwaladr, brother to Owen Gwynedd, in the year 1148. This village is composed of miserable cottages, but the church (dedicated to Saint Rhystyd, who lived in the former part of the sixth century) stands on an elevation near, and is a neat building. The parish is delightfully situated on the bay of Cardigan, and is famous for its barley. The church of Llanrhystyd was destroyed by the Danes in 987. The castle of Llanrhystyd, called also Dinerth Castle, was destroyed by Owain Gwynedd and his brother Cadwaladr, in conjunction with Hywel ap Meredydd and Rhŷs ap Madog ap Idnerth: and when Cadel ap Meredydd and Rhŷs ap Gruffydd were ravaging this county in 1150, they lost their bravest men whilst besieging this castle, which so enraged them, that when they got possession of it they put the garrison to the sword. In 1158 it was fortified by Roger Earl of Clare. In 1199 Maelgon ap Rhŷs besieged it, and slew all the garrison left by his brother Gruffydd to defend it. In 1204 Maelgon ap Rhŷs, in dread of Llewelyn ap Iorwerth, razed it, with several others, to prevent it falling into their hands.—About 7 miles beyond Llan Rhystyd we arrive at the town of

ABERYSTWITH,

situate on a bold eminence overhanging the sea, at the conflux of the rivers Ystwith and Rheidol, which here empty themselves into the Irish Sea, or Saint George's Channel; and from the first of which rivers the town derives its name, viz. Aber Ystwith, from being built exactly opposite the Aber, or mouth of the Ystwith, where it falls into the river Rheidol. It is said the present town of Aberystwith was anciently called Llanbadarn Caerog, or the fortified Llanbadarn, and that the small village of Aberystwith stood to the westward of the castle. This seems to be confirmed by the charter granted by Edward the First, in which it is several times called Llanbadarn, and not Aberystwith. The streets are well laid out, and paved with stones, supplied in great quantities from the shore: the houses are chiefly built with the black slate-rock of the country, which gives the whole rather a gloomy appearance, unless where, as is now commonly done, they are whitewashed or stuccoed. Notwithstanding this, it has long been a favourite resort for bathing to the inhabitants of the neighbouring counties, and indeed it may now be said of the united kingdom. The beach is sufficiently convenient and pleasant, with good bathing-machines and pleasure-boats. Public rooms have lately been erected at a great expense by the inhabitants, and a public walk or terrace has been formed along the shore: warm and cold baths have also been erected at the expense of Dr. Rhŷs Williams: indeed there seems to be no expense spared to render the visitant comfortable and happy. A company of comedians attend every bathing-season. Aberystwith is also a place of considerable trade,

trade, having a harbour deep enough at high water to receive the larger kind of Welsh coasting vessels: by means of which it exports a great quantity of lead, calamine, and oak bark; likewise a few manufactured goods, such as webs, flannels, and stockings, mostly sent to Liverpool and Bristol. It also imports, for the use of the country, cast-iron goods from Coalbrookdale (shipped at Bristol), grain from Ireland, coal from the southern parts of Wales, and a great quantity of porter from Bristol, which is consumed here during the bathing-season, although their own malt-liquor is equal to any in the Principality. In 1745 ten thousand barrels of herrings were taken here; and in 1732 there were taken 113 bottle-noses, some 15 feet long, which yielded a great quantity of blubber. During the season, or in September, October, and November, a great number of herrings are still taken, but very inconsiderable compared to the quantity above-mentioned, which then employed annually above 500 persons. Here is, likewise, a considerable fishery for cod and mackerel, which are sent as far as Shrewsbury: so that probably the whole of its commerce employs about 50 vessels, manned with about 300 men. The church is dedicated to Saint Michael, and was built in 1787: it stands within the ancient precincts of the castle, and was erected by subscription, at the head of which appears the Rev. Richard Lloyd for £100, as a legacy from a deceased Mrs. Jones. It is a plain, unadorned structure, containing in length from east to west 60 feet, and in breadth 26, and is capable of holding from 700 to 800 persons. It is a perpetual curacy, in the gift of the Bishop of Saint David's. The gallery erected at the west end of the church was built at the sole expense of Mrs. Margaret Pryse, of Gogerthan, in the year 1790, and cost £104. 14s. It bears an inscription commemorative of Mrs. Pryse's donation.* The custom-house was erected about the year 1773, near the beach, and the business thereof removed from the port of Aberdovey. A new custom-house was erected in 1829, on a more convenient spot in the west part of the town. Many beautiful corallines have been picked up at various times near the shore. The town, which is the largest in the county, appears to have been strongly fortified, and shews at present some fragments of its old castle, occupying a projection of slate-rock, and protecting the town on the sea side, while it commands on the other the whole of the conflux of the Ystwith and Rheidol, with a beautiful view of the vale. It was built by Gilbert de Strongbow about 1107, in the reign of Henry the First, but demolished soon after, and again rebuilt by Edward the First in 1277. About 1377 we find it in the possession of Owen Glyndwr, who was besieged in it by Henry the Fourth, by

* The chapel of Saint Michael being found too small for the accommodation of the inhabitants and the numerous visitors that attend here during the summer months. The first stone of a new church was laid in June, 1830, near to the above chapel-of-ease; and the interesting ceremony was witnessed by a vast concourse of inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood, and visitors from all parts.

by whom the castle was taken; but it was again taken by Glyndwr, who placed in it a strong garrison of Welshmen. During the unhappy contest between Charles the First and his Parliament this castle was kept for the king, until the garrison were compelled to surrender to Cromwell, who again garrisoned it for the Parliament. Since that time it has remained in a state of decay—a picturesque heap of ruins; the gateway and several towers in the walls alone marking its former extent. In front of the gateway is a modern ravelin, thrown up during the siege in 1647; the rest of the building, or rather the remains, was the work of Edward the First: on the north-west is part of a tower about 40 feet high, and an arched doorway is still preserved. A round tower is also existing; another has been repaired, and converted into a kind of observatory, but is now in a very ruinous situation. Previous to the castle surrendering to Cromwell, a mint was established within the castle walls, for the convenience of paying the miners. Several silver pieces coined here, with the impression of an ostrich feather, the one current for 20s. others for 10s. and several smaller sums, are now in the possession of respectable individuals. Contiguous to the ruins of the old fortress, the late Mr. Uvedale Price, of Foxley, in Herefordshire, erected a fantastic house of a castellated form, intended merely as a summer residence; it consists of three octagon towers, with a balcony towards the sea. A public walk was traced with considerable taste and ingenuity among the fragments of the castle, at the expense of the late John Probert, Esq. of Copthorn, near Shrewsbury, agent to the Powis family. In Queen Elizabeth's reign a company of Germans reaped a large fortune in working the silver mines in the vicinity of this town. Sir Hugh Myddelton, after them, was equally successful, and accumulated £2000 a-month out of one silver mine at Bwlch yr Eskir, which enabled him (in 1614) to bring the New River to London. He was succeeded by Mr. Bushell, a servant of Sir Francis Bacon, who also gained such immense profits that he made King Charles the First a present of a regiment of horse, and clothed his whole army; he also furnished a loan of £40,000 to his necessities, which was considered as a gift; and when that unfortunate prince was pressed, he raised a regiment among his miners, also at his own charge. On a very high and steep hill, near the bridge over the Rheidol, is also a large intrenchment, still in a good state of preservation, and where, Caradoc informs us, Rhŷs ap Gruffydd, in the year 1113, encamped his forces, which, by a manœuvre of the English, were enticed from the hill over the bridge to besiege Aberystwith castle, where they were surrounded and cut off almost to a man. The tradition of the town attributes this intrenchment to the forces employed by Oliver Cromwell to besiege the castle. Opposite this, on a hill at the extremity of the town, are two other intrenchments, in bad preservation, and destitute of the tumuli or barrows often found contiguous to

Welsh

Welsh intrenchments; the one is square and the other circular, having beneath it, on one side, several shelves of earth. The old church stood to the west of the town.

One mile and a quarter north-east of Aberystwith is Llanbadarn-fawr, anciently called Mauritanea, and supposed to be the seat of one of the earliest bishopricks. Here Paternus, in the sixth century, founded a monarchy, and an episcopal see, afterwards united to Saint David's. He was an Armorican, and governed the church here by feeding, and fed it by governing. The church (dedicated to Saint Padarn) was given, in the year 1111, to Saint Peter's at Gloucester, and some time after to the abbey of the Vale Royal in Cheshire. The present structure has traces of great antiquity, being large, and built in the form of a cross, and is supposed to be one of the oldest in Wales, with a door of early gothic architecture, and by its style was probably erected previous to the Itinerary of Giraldus, in whose time this place was an abbey, under the jurisdiction of a layman, the enormity of which he laments in the following clerical strain:—"We rested one night, at Llanbadarn-fawr, where the church, like others in England and Wales, is preposterously governed by a lay abbot, the origin of which is thus: the clergy formerly appointed the powerful men of their neighbourhood to act as stewards, patrons, or guardians of their churches. In process of time these imprudent stewards usurped the whole authority, and impiously appropriated to themselves not only the exterior possession, but even the real use of all the church lands, leaving the tithes and offerings as the only portion belonging to the clergy, who were generally some relations or sons of the abbot. In this situation we found the church of Llanbadarn-fawr, without a head, having an old man named Eden Oen, son of Gwaithvaed, long practised in the badness of the times, officiating as abbot, while his son performed the duties of the altar." This is now a parish church, but was many years a bishop's see, until the inhabitants killed their bishop; whence arose the proverb, "Ac ni bu un da, o honynt byth gwedi;" that is, *there never was one good person of them since.* Its external appearance is large and ancient, erected of common stone. The interior consists of a nave and chancel, formed of rough materials, with a few modern monuments, particularly one for Lewis Morris, well known among his countrymen for a profound knowledge of British history and antiquities, and as the author of a valuable work, entitled "Celtic Remains," which has since been republished, with considerable additions, by that learned and respected Divine, the Rev. Walter Davies, Rector of Manafon, Montgomeryshire. There are also several monuments of ancient families, whose descendants reside at their mansions in this parish, particularly the Pryses of Gogerthan. The present proprietor of that estate is M. P. for the contributory boroughs of Cardigan, &c. Here are also two ancient stone crosses. Above the church is a small narrow dingle,

dingle, in a particular spot of which if any one stands he cannot hear the church bells while ringing, yet if he moves but a little one way or the other he will hear them distinctly. The Roman road, called Sarn Helen, passes through a farm in this parish, called Llwyn Rhingyll. The Danes, in the year 987, with marked animosity, destroyed part of this church; it was afterwards, in 1037, utterly destroyed by Gruffydd ap Llewelyn ap Sitsyllt.—In this parish are several old British forts, as Pen-y-Dinas, near Aberystwith; Y-Gaer, near Cwm-bwa; and Llys Arthur, or Arthur's Palace, in Dyffryn Castell.

Plâs-Grûg, or Glâs Grig, is a fortified mansion on the banks of the Rheidol, between Aberystwith and Llanbadarn-fawr, situated on lands, part of the Nanteos estate, and common report distinguishes it as one of the residences of Owen Glyndwr. The remains are very considerable, and pleasantly situated in a bottom, terminating with the town of Aberystwith. Of this mansion a square embattled tower appears very perfect, and there is a narrow passage leading into another quadrangular division, which has still the outward walls in good preservation. The entrance and hall are immediately opposite the chimney, with a mutilated floor of rough stones similar to those in its exterior walls; the former has still the hearth and a rustic chimney-piece remaining, affording a good specimen of its ancient magnificence. The extent of the original fabric cannot be minutely described, but the apartments have been very spacious and numerous, as the remaining walls will certify, being in many places from 6 to 7 feet high; but the base area within is completely choked with the fallen fragments of its superstructure. A small part of its ruins is now used as a hay-loft, but, like the other parts, has neither a hewn stone or a single letter of inscription. When this old mansion was erected is no where to be found in history; yet it appears to have been known to Gruffydd ap Rhŷs in 1113, when he encamped here, previous to his defeat by the Normans before Aberystwith Castle. That it has been the residence of our princes cannot be denied; for it is particularly mentioned by Eineon ap Gwgan, who flourished about 1244; when speaking of Llewelyn the Great, he (Eineon ap Gwgan) expressed himself to this purpose,—

> "His spear flashes in the hands accustomed to martial deeds;
> "It kills, and puts his enemies to flight, by the palace of the Rheidol."

It appears afterwards to have been, as above-mentioned, one of the residences of Owen Glyndwr. It is said that a subterraneous passage led from this mansion to the old sanctuary of Llanbadarn-fawr, and another to the castle of Aberystwith, but notwithstanding repeated trials, the remains of either cannot be discovered. The castle of Aber-Rheidol was taken by Rhŷs ap Gruffydd (in 1164) from Roger Earl of Clare, and demolished. This was but a retaliative piece of justice; for the Earl, a little time before, had instigated Llywarch,

servant

servant of Eineon, Rhŷs's nephew, to murder Eineon in his bed.—Castell Strad Pythyll, not far from Aber-Rheidol, was taken in 1116 by Gruffydd ap Rhŷs. It then belonged to Ralph, steward to Gilbert Earl of Strigil.

In the parish of Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn is Gwely Taliesin, or Taliesin's bed. It stood by the high road, about four miles from Aberystwith; the popular superstition respecting which is, that should any one sleep in this bed for one night he would the next day become either a poet or a fool. Tradition informs us that this was the sepulchre of Taliesin, ben-beirdd Cymru, or chief bard of Wales, who flourished about the year 540. It seems to have been a sort of cistvaen, four feet long and three broad, composed of four stones, one at each end and two side stones, the highest nearly a foot above the ground; but no part of this monument is now remaining, some ruthless hand having broken the stones, and converted them afterwards to gate-posts. Camden (p. 647) says, "I take this, and all others of this kind, for old heathen monuments, and am far from believing that ever Taliesin was interred here." But to proceed from these barbarous monuments (which yet are no more rude than those of our neighbouring nations before they were conquered by the Romans) to something later and more civilized.—In this parish is Castle Walter (Sarn Gwallog). Here is a curious echo that reiterates twice; and the eminent antiquary Edward Lhwyd was born here. A large rude stone in Penbryn parish, not far from the church, was standing some years ago, in a small heap of other stones, close by the place where it now lies on the ground: the stone is as hard as marble, and has an inscription in large and fair letters, and deeper inscribed than ordinary, but what they signify does not appear to have been ascertained. In the same parish of Penbryn was found, some years since, a British gold coin weighing more than a guinea. From this and many others found in several places in this kingdom, it is manifest the Britons had gold and silver coins of their own before the Roman conquest; unless such as contend for the contrary can make it appear that these coins were brought in by the Phœnicians, or some other trading nation, which has not yet been shown. There are several tumuli in this parish, in which coins and urns have been discovered. The shore at Traeth Saith, i. e. the shallow shore, to which it answers, is esteemed the finest on the coast for sea-bathing. No parish in the principality can boast of a greater number of fortresses than Penbryn, as every hill and knoll have been used as places of defence. Two Agrarian fortresses, however, deserved to be particularly noticed, viz. Castell Nadolig and Pwntan. Castell Nadolig is a large camp, with three moats and ramparts at some distance from each other. Being intersected with fences, and situate on a level hill, it is often passed unnoticed, though adjoining the road, on the right-hand side, leading from Aberystwith to

Cardigan.

Cardigan. A farm hard by retains the name; and close to it is a barrow. Pwntan stands half-a-mile to the south-west, and seems to have been a rival camp; it is of equal extent, and similarly fortified with Castell Nadolig: there is also a tumulus adjoining this fortress. To the west of the church stands the inscribed rude stone mentioned above, and the farm on which it is situated is called Dyffryn Bern. The names of several places in this parish are indicative of the great slaughter in former times: viz. a plain called Maes Glâs, or Maes Galanas, meaning the field of massacre; and not far off, Pwll Glâs, the pit of the massacre; and Clôs Glâs, the slaughtering inclosure. Mr. Evans supposes some of King Arthur's men to have been slain here, through the treachery of Medrod or Mordred his nephew. Longborth is celebrated by Llywarch Hên as being the place where Geraint ap Erbin, a prince of Devon, was slain: he is mentioned in the Triads as being one of the three owners of fleets of the Isle of Britain, the other two being March ap Meirchion and Gwenwynwyn ap Naf. There is a farm in this parish called Porth Geraint, supposed to be the place of his interment. According to the before-mentioned bard, in his elegy on Geraint, we may conclude the carnage to have been dreadful,—"the warriors standing knee-deep in blood." There is also a cistvaen at Cwm Barren, in this parish. The parish lies along the bay of Cardigan, and is very extensive, but barren and uncultivated.

In this county is situate Ystrad Flur Abbey, or Strata Florida, near the source of the Teifi, a monastery according to Camden, but Leland, Farmer, and Dugdale say it was devoted to the Cistercian monks of the Cluniac order. It is in the farthest recess of a mountainous semicircle, amid numerous coppices of wood, and having cultivated land to the steep acclivities, which render the situation very pleasant and desirable. Of this abbey, called by the Welsh Mynachlog Ystrad Flur, there are still some remains, although they are very inconsiderable and scarcely worth notice, having only a wall on the west end of the church, with a gateway of Saxon architecture, which is of fine proportion and well preserved. The church is large, with a long and cross aisle, but the foundation appears to have been 60 feet longer than it is at present. Near the large cloister is an infirmary, now in ruins; also a burying-ground, meanly walled, having in Leland's time 39 large yew-trees; but the court before the abbey is spacious and handsome. Tradition says Dafydd ap Gwylym, the celebrated bard, was buried under one of the yew-trees. This abbey was originally founded by Rhŷs ap Gruffydd, Prince of South Wales in 1164, and burnt down in the time of Edward the First, about the year 1294, but soon after rebuilt. At the dissolution of these religious institutions it was valued at £118. 11s. per annum. The extent of the old cemetery is said to be 120 acres, and lead coffins are frequently dug up within that space; but what

what tends to confirm this is, that so much of the abbey land pays no tithe. Within these ancient walls was regularly kept a chronicle of the principal transactions among our British princes, with all the records complete from 1156 to 1273. It is likewise celebrated as the place of interment of many of our Welsh princes and abbots; but at present not a single fragment of their tombs remains, nor even a solitary inscription is any where to be found. Among the illustrious persons interred here, the monk of Llancarvan gives the following names:—A. D. 1176, Cadell ap Gruffydd ap Rhŷs; 1185, Hywel ap Ieuaf; 1191, Owen ap Rhŷs; 1202, Rhŷs ap Gruffydd, Prince of South Wales, the founder; 1204, Howel ap Rhŷs, by the side of Gruffydd; 1209, Maud de Bruce, wife of Gruffydd ap Rhŷs, buried in a monk's cowl; 1221, Rhŷs ap Rhŷs Fychan; 1239, Maelgon, the son of Rhŷs ap Gruffydd; 1235, Cadwallon ap Maelgon, of Maelienydd; 1235, Owen, the son of Gruffydd ap Rhŷs; 1238, Llewelyn ap Iorwerth, who, being indisposed, assembled before him, at Ystrad Flur, all the barons and lords of Wales, to do homage to his son David, whom he named his successor.

About 12 miles from Aberystwith, on the Llanidloes road, is Pont-ar-Fynach, or the Devil's bridge. It consists of two arches, one thrown over the other. The old bridge (which is the lower arch) is said to have been built about the year 1087, in the reign of William the Second, by the monks of Strata Florida. Giraldus mentions passing over this bridge when he accompanied Baldwin, Archbishop of Canterbury, at the time of the Crusades, in the year 1188: the upper arch was built perpendicularly over it in the year 1753, at the expense of the county, for the greater safety and convenience of travellers. A few years ago the bridge was embellished with iron railing, at the expense of the late respected Mr. Johnes, of Havod. These arches span a chasm in a tremendous rock, which, when viewed from the dingle where the stream runs, has an appearance awfully sublime; and the rays of the sun being intercepted by the elevated situation of the trees, which grow impending over this impetuous torrent, add greatly to the sublimity of the scene. The cleft in the rock has been greatly enlarged, if not originally caused, by the force of the stream, the rapidity of which is increased by its confinement. The depth of the water on the south-west side is in some places upwards of 12 feet, and from the highest arch to the water 99 feet. On the north-east side, close to the bridge, it measures 114 feet; this difference may be ascribed to the declivity under it, which is very considerable. The river, bursting from its restrained course, proceeding through broken rocks, and interrupted by fragments, becomes a more even and translucid stream for about 4 miles north-east from the bridge till within a few yards of the fall, where it is confined to narrow limits by the rocks; from whence, bursting with terrific roar, it is carried about 6 feet over the craggy ridge,

ridge, and, descending 18 feet, is received into a bason, along which it flows 24 feet, and then rushes with equal impetuosity to a descent of 60 feet. Here the fall is again interrupted by another receiver, which, like the former, appears to have been worn to an amazing depth. The agitation of the water, and the mist occasioned by the fall, which for some time is taken for rain, prevents its depth being sounded; from this bason it hastens to another descent of nearly 20 feet, but reaching that extent meets with obstructions of massy rocks and stones of a prodigious size, which it encounters with irresistible violence, and forces its way about 22 feet to the precipice of the greatest cataract: the water then uniting passes with an almost inconceivable force over the brink of the rock, and becomes a large sheet; in that state it falls upwards of 110 feet.

"Between two meeting hills it bursts away,
"Where rocks and woods o'erhang the turbid stream;
"There gathering triple force, rapid and deep,
"It boils, and wheels, and foams, and thunders through."—THOMSON.

The river, for near three miles from this spot, is enclosed by hills of prodigious magnitude, some wholly clothed with trees, except an intervention here and there of frightfully projecting rocks, the bottoms of which are very dangerous and difficult of access; but a situation near the brink of the river once obtained, the spectator is amply repaid with a scene the most solemn and beautiful. To describe the various sounds the different breaks in the cataract produce can but be done by a simile to a variation of the keys in music; and to depict the scenery with which you are here surrounded, elevated woods, rocks, and the rushing of the river (falling more than 280 feet), can be more justly done by an accurate drawing than by the most descriptive pen. At the jut of the lowest fall in the rock is a cave, said to have been inhabited by robbers, two brothers and a sister, called Plant Mat or Plant Fat, who used to steal and sell the cattle of their neighbours, and whose retreat was not discovered for many years. The entrance being just sufficient to make darkness visible, and admitting but one at a time, they were able to defend it against hundreds. At length, however, they were taken, after having committed a murder, for which they were tried, condemned, and executed.

Eglwys Newydd, or New Church, is in the parish of Llanfihangel y Creuddin, and situate on the river Ystwith. The original church stood at a place called Llan Tri-Saint, three miles nearer the mother church; but the church was erected on the present spot for the convenience of the Herbert family, who lived at Hafod, and of the Cwm Ystwith miners, in the year 1620; this was, however, taken down, and the present elegant structure erected about the year 1803, entirely at the expense of Thomas Johnes, Esq. M. P. for the County, and Lord Lieutenant, who thereby added an additional proof to the many before given of his taste and unbounded liberality. It is a peculiarity

peculiarity that this church points N. E. and S. W. Mr. Cumberland has so well succeeded in his attempt to describe Hafod, that the reader is referred to his little treatise for a full account of the numerous beauties in the grounds there. Dr. Meyrick, in his History of Cardiganshire, page 371, says, " Since writing the above, a most dreadful fire (which happened early in the morning of Friday, the 13th of March, 1807) has destroyed this classical and elegant mansion, the most valuable part of the library, all the painted glass, and two of the pictures, Cleopatra by Guercino, and Elijah by Rembrandt. Independent of the £30,000, for which a part was insured, Colonel Johnes's loss was estimated at £70,000. But the pecuniary loss to a man of true taste, whose whole life had been occupied in forming a most astonishing concentration of literature and the Fine Arts, must be but trifling when compared with the dreadful sight of sudden desolation to all his labours. However, happy for himself and those devoted to literature and taste, his assiduity and perseverance in making this wonder of Wales, have been only equalled by his more than human reconciliation to the circumstance, and his determined resolution to raise another Phœnix."—Mr. Johnes again rebuilt the mansion; which, after his death, passed, with the estate, into the hands of trustees.

Cwm Ystwith lead mines are subterraneous excavations, which lie on the side of two mountains to the right of the river Ystwith, near Pentre and Pont-ar Fynach. These mines are the property of the Nanteos family.

At the distance of 7 miles from Pont-ar Fynach we pass (on our right) Ystradmeirig, a small village, formerly defended with a castle, which was destroyed in 1136 by Owen Gwynedd, but again rebuilt in 1150 by Rhŷs, Prince of South Wales. It afterwards suffered considerably, and was entirely destroyed by Maelgon ap Rhŷs in 1207, to prevent its falling into the hands of Llewelyn ap Iorwerth. There was here, a short time ago, an excellent Grammar School, and perhaps one of the best in the Principality, which had been established for above a century, and always continued in high repute. At this seminary most of the gentlemen of the county were educated, and for the knowledge and profound erudition of several of its professors it justly gained the appellation of the " Welsh College" at Ystradmeirig.

In the year 1827 a new college, dedicated to Saint David, and under the Patronage of the Bishops of St. David's and Llandaff, was built at Lampeter, in this county; to assist the building of which his late Most Gracious Majesty George the Fourth, with his usual munificence, subscribed the sum of £1000. Its Tutors are selected from the English Universities, and possess great classical knowledge; and Scholars from this College are entitled to graduate, &c. as from the other principal Seminaries.

At

At the distance of 5 miles from the last-mentioned place, we pass through Caron, or Trefgaron (the church of which is dedicated to Saint Caron, who assumed the sovereignty of Britain about the year 300), a poor, ill-built, straggling town, situate in an abrupt hollow, and watered by an arm of the Teifi, but is plentifully interspersed with woods, which form a pleasing relief to the surrounding dreariness. The church is a respectable old building, and the town boasts the dignity of a Mayor, but, owing to improper conduct at an election in the year 1742, the Corporation was voted by the House of Commons to have forfeited their Charter. The general accommodation in this secluded place is very indifferent. Llynymaes (the Lake of the Field), where tradition says the town of Trefgaron formerly stood, is three miles from this place. In our road is a large mound, encircled by a moat, but whether it was the site of an ancient citadel or a sepulchre is uncertain.

Three miles beyond Trefgaron we pass (on the left of our road) Llanddewi Brefi, situated on the river Teifi. A horn of an ox of a very extraordinary size was preserved in this church, being at the root 17 inches in circumference, and as heavy as a stone, seemingly petrified, and said to have been in the church since the time of Saint David, who lived in the beginning of the sixth century. This horn is represented as full of large cells and holes, and was called in Welsh Matkorn-Ych-Dewi. At this place Thomas Beck, Bishop of Saint David's, founded a college, which was dedicated to that Saint, in the year 1187, for a precentor and 12 prebendaries; its value at the Dissolution was £38. 11s. per annum. A synod was held at this place in 522, and at a full meeting St. David opposed the opinions of the Pelagians, at that time reviving in Britain, and that not only out of Sacred Scripture, but likewise by miracle; for it is reported that the ground on which he stood preaching mounted up to a hillock under his feet. St. Dubricius, Archbishop of Caerleon, having assisted at the synod, resigned his see to St. David, and betook himself to Bardsey Island to spend the remainder of his life in devotion. In the church of Llan-Ddewi-Brefi Humphrey Lhwyd tells us he found, above the chancel door, an ancient inscription on a tomb-stone now destroyed. Besides the inscriptions of the Romans, their coins have sometimes been found here, and they have frequently dug up bricks and large free-stone neatly wrought; for which reasons Dr. Gibson thinks proper to fix here Lovantinum or Levantinum, which Ptolemy places in the country of the Dimetæ: Mr. Horsley also joins him in this opinion. Cam Ddwr, in this parish, is the place where a battle was fought in the year 1073, between Gronw and Llewelyn, the sons of Cadwgan ap Bleddyn, and Rhŷs ap Owain and Rhŷdderch ap Caradog: the chieftains of Powys were victorious, Rhŷdderch was slain, and notwithstanding the defeat, Rhŷs remained the sole sovereign

sovereign of South Wales. Such unnatural contests, it is much to be lamented, continually stain the British annals. A society is established in this parish "for promoting Christian Knowledge and Church Union in the Diocese of Saint David."

At the distance of six miles from Llanddewi Brefi and nine from Trefgaron, we arrive at Llanbedr-Pont-Stephen, a small town in Camden's time, but, like most others, now considerably improved. Near this place was a large old seat of Sir Herbert Lloyd, which is built close to the town, and exhibits a very striking appearance, with its four great towers, crowned with domes, in the middle of a well-planted inclosure. The town and its environs may amuse the traveller with a transient ray of cultivation, when compared with the steep turf fences, amid bleak and barren mountains, which almost encompass the place, excepting within the distance of a mile each way. Several experiments have been tried in planting live fences to the farms of this district, but, we are told, in vain, for the various thorns, elders, hazel, and birch that were planted, all seem decaying or decayed. The furze succeeded best, and flourished for some time to a good height, then fell a sacrifice to the same hard fate. With the powerful assistance of lime the farmers are enabled to raise a small produce of oats and rye, but of a very inferior kind; saintfoin and clover have been raised, with great trouble and expense, to a moderate degree of perfection, which will suffice to give a provincial some idea of its wretchedness, and the poor subsistence to be procured. A late writer says Llanbedr-Pont-Stephen is situated in the beautiful vale of the Teifi; and about half-a-mile distant from the town is a bridge over the Teifi, which is supposed to have been erected by King Stephen in one of his excursions into Wales. He is also thought to have encamped on a meadow near the river, still called the King's Meadow; and in an adjoining field a subterraneous chamber was discovered, called Seler y Brenhin, i. e. the king's cellar. Several curious stone steps led down to this royal apartment; but a neighbouring farmer lately demolished it for the sake of the stones with which it was constructed. This appears to have been a much larger place formerly than at present; and the number of its inhabitants gave them some consequence, as frequent mention is made in the Welsh Chronicle of *the men of Saint Peter* having accomplished some action or other; and this is further confirmed by a piece of ground on the south-east of the town, called Mynwent Twmas, i. e. Saint Thomas's Church-yard, in which pieces of lead coffins are frequently dug up. The tradition is that the ruins of the church were standing about two hundred years ago, and the street leading to it is called Saint Thomas's Street. There is a house in the town called The Priory, in the garden of which are some low ruined walls, and an old yew-tree; and tradition says that a priory formerly stood near this spot, but it is not mentioned in any records now extant.

There

There are several mineral springs in the neighbourhod, but they are seldom resorted to. Here are two tumuli or castles, one of which is not far from the church, and the other is near the road to Aberystwith; the fosses round the latter are almost complete. On a common are some remains of a Roman road; and near Olwen is a curious artificial hill, on which was a Roman camp, and where part of a Roman military mill was lately discovered. On the summit of the hill to the eastward of this camp are some druidical remains; on one side whereof is a large Roman encampment, and on the other side is a still larger British or Flemish encampment of an oval form. Castell Rhêgett is also in this parish; and nearly opposite it, on the other side of the Teifi, is the Gaer, an entrenched British post. The Britons seem here to have disputed every inch of ground with the invaders. The church (dedicated to Saint Peter the Apostle) is very ancient, and has the remains of a rood-loft within it, and some monuments of the family of Lloyd of Millfield.

Millfield was a very ancient seat of the Lloyds, Baronets. The Vicar of Llandovery's favourite son having perished in an intrigue there, the father uttered the well-known curse,—

> "The curse of God on Maes y Felin hall,
> "And every stone in its detested wall."

The country-people will have it that the family never throve since—that the place was reduced to a heap of ruins—and when the estate fell into the hands of the Lloyds of Peterwell, that they soon felt the effects of the same malediction, and every family that subsequently came into possession of these obnoxious lands; in proof whereof they shew the beautiful house of Peterwell, now a mass of rubbish. In a charming situation, on the side of a sloping hill to the west of the church, stood anciently the mansion of the lords of Llanbedr, called Arglwyddi Llanbedr. Tradition represents them as men of great opulence, and points out the remains of a causeway that led by a stone bridge over the river Croyw Ddwr, in a direct line from the mansion-house to the west door of the church. This estate fell subsequently into the hands of Lord Marchmont's family, and some elderly persons lately living remembered Lord Marchmont in possession of part of it. Archbishop Baldwin and Giraldus de Barri are stated to have successfully promoted the service of the cross here by their united exhortations.

About $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Llanbedr is Llanwnen. The church is dedicated to Saint Gwynin, a saint who lived in the middle of the sixth century. This place is situated on the river Crannel. Not far from the church is a moated tumulus, called Castell Ddû, or the Black Castle. A few years ago several curious silver coins were dug up in a field belonging to a farm called Cefn Llew Tref.

In the parish of Llandysilio Gogo, or Gogofau, situate on the bay of Cardigan, is a very curious inclosure, called Garn Wen, i. e. the white

white heap, above a farm of the name of Cilieu. It is nearly circular, being 68 yards in diameter, and composed of loose stones divided into three compartments. It is encompassed by a low rampart, constructed also of stone. A piece of ground about three acres, to the south-west, seems to have had a mound of earth thrown up round it, and appears to have been an appendage to Garn Wen. For whatever purpose it was erected, it must have been a place of great celebrity and strength, as the stone walls in its vicinity seem all to have been taken from the agger. Perhaps it was an ancient court of justice, such as were termed Grithhail by the Scots, and Parle or Parling Hill by the Irish. The hill to the west of it is called Ceven y Cwrt, i. e. The Court Hill, to this day. Above Llwyn Dafydd is a fortress known by the names of Castell Llwyn Dafydd and Castell Caerwedros. It has two circumvallations, and is about 200 feet in diameter. The inner part has the appearance of a large tumulus, the ditches are deep, and the mounds proportionably high. To the north, adjoining the outer moat, is a small square piece of ground, fortified with a single work only. It seems too limited to have been a place of defence, but looks like the barrow of a chieftain strongly moated round, or the scene of bardic meetings. If a castle, as commonly called, it must have been Castell Mab Wynion, i. e. the castle of the sons of Wyneaon, being in the Cwmwd of Mab Wynion, and not of Caerwedros, which borders the river Teifi. Castell Mab Wynion was taken by Rhŷs ap Griffith in 1164; and in an arbitration between the family of Rhŷs ap Griffith, this castle was allotted to young Rhŷs. Castell Caerwedros was taken by Owain Gwynedd and Cadwalader in 1136, which is all the history of it that now remains.

In the parish of Bangor, or Bann Cor, i. e. the choir on the steep hill, is an old round tump of earth, about a quarter of a mile distant from the church, called Castell Pistog, i. e. the Castle of Pistog, who, as report says, was anciently the proprietor of all the land in this lordship. There is a hollow on the top of this tump, where, it is said, Pistog regaled his tenants once a year, under a large woollen canopy erected for that purpose. The church is dedicated to Saint David.

Blaen Porth has its chapel dedicated to Saint David. Blaen Porth is derived from Blaen (a source) and Porth (a port). The term is not very appropriate, as the tide comes no further inland than Aber Porth. There is a chalybeate spring close to Tyllwyd, but its efficacy is little known. There is a hilly fortress, called Gaer, but sometimes called Castell Gwythan, erected by Gilbert Earl of Strygil, and the Flemings, at Blaen Porth Gwythan, about 200 yards north of the church. It was besieged by Gruffydd ap Rhŷs in the year 1116, and being taken, after many assaults, with the loss of 41 of his own men, it was burnt to the ground. It must have been a strong place both by nature and art from what remains of it. It has but a single

single ditch and rampart. At one end of it is a lofty mount, either a watch tower or tumulus. There is another camp in this parish, not far from the above, called Caer Sonydd, but much smaller. There is also a small but very strong one by the sea-coast, called Tudor's Castle. Near the church of Bryn Gwynn (dedicated to Saint Mary) is a very strong intrenchment, called Gaer, a denomination given to a vast number of similar camps or fortresses. The name Bryn Gwynn implies "the White Mount."

Capel Cynin.—The chapel, which is now in ruins, was dedicated to Saint Cynin, a saint who lived in the middle of the fifth century. There are two fairs held annually on an adjoining hill. Cwm Cynin, or Cynin's Vale, was anciently a place of more grandeur than at present, and was the seat of the Parrys of Gernos. King Henry the Seventh, with the army that joined him under Sir Rhŷs ap Thomas, encamped for one night on a small eminence opposite Cwm Cynin, in their march to Bosworth. The country-people relate a story of a golden goblet left behind him, and claimed afterwards, by the king's orders, by the Vaughans of Golden Grove, in the county of Caermarthen; where, they say, it is kept to this day.

Maelgon, having entered the country of his nephews in an hostile manner, encamped at Cil Cennin in 1210, where he was attacked by Rhŷs and Owain in the night, at the head of only 300 men, who slew many in their sleep, and obliged the rest to make their escape by favour of the darkness of the night; only Maelgon's guard valiantly kept their post, and defended their lord till he had time and opportunity to escape. His nephew, Conan ap Hywel, with his chief counsellor Gruffydd ap Cadwgan, were both taken prisoners; and Einion ap Caradog, with a great number more, were slain on the spot.

There is an ancient monumental stone in the church-yard of Llanwnws (the church dedicated to Saint Gwnnws).

The parish of Hên Fynyw is mostly celebrated as having been the place in which Saint David, in his early days, was brought up. The church is dedicated to Saint David.

In the parish of Hênllan, which is situate on the banks of the river Teifi, is one of the finest cascades on that river, called Ffrwden Hênllan.

In the parish of Llanarth Henry the Seventh encamped the second night on his march through this country, at Wern Newydd. The church of this parish is dedicated to Saint Vylltyg, and stands on the summit of a high hill on the banks of the river Llethy, which falls into the sea at Llanina.—Noyaddarth is a large modern house belonging to Colonel Brooke.

The parish church of Llanbadarn Odwyn, dedicated to Saint Padarn, is situated on a very high, cold, and bleak hill, commanding a delightful prospect of the fertile vale of Aeron. It consists simply

of

of a nave and chancel, and stands on a cemetery walled in. Its name imports that it was dedicated to Saint Paternus or Patrick, the founder of Llanbadarn-Fawr: and its epithet Odwyn (very white) seems to have been judiciously applied, as it may be seen for some miles off on every side, conspicuously exhibiting a contrast to the green turf beneath.

Llanddygwydd has its church dedicated to Saint Tegwedd, a female saint, who lived about the beginning of the fifth century. Near Cefnarth bridge, in this parish, is the famous salmon leap (and not at Cilgerran as mentioned by Camden). The church has lately been rebuilt in a neat and elegant manner. There were two chapels belonging to this church: the one at Noyadd, of which some traces remain in a field called Parc y Capel; and the other at Cefnarth, close to the bridge, on the site of which a turnpike gate now stands. East of the church is a small camp called Gaer, and within a quarter of a mile to the south a barrow; and there are barrows on Pen y Bryn Bwa. This is a very extensive and well-wooded parish.

In the parsh of Llandyssil were formerly 6 chapels, each of which stood in a separate hamlet, but they are all now so dilapidated that scarcely any vestige of them remains. In the church-yard is an old inscribed stone, and in different parts of the parish are some carneddau and tumuli. Castell Hywel, or Howel's Castle, is in this parish; but there is no historical record of it.

In the parish of Llanfair Trelygon, the church (which was dedicated to Saint Mary) is in ruins. On the south side of the church is a singular moated tumulus, formerly used as a place of defence.

Llanfihangel Llethyr-Troed (the church of which is dedicated to Saint Michael) is nine miles south-east of Aberystwith. In the church-yard is the grave of that celebrated bard, the Rev. Evan Evans (born at Cynhan-dref about the year 1730), who is called (very justly) by Mr. Yorke "*that wayward child of genius.*" He was known among his brother poets by the name of Prydydd Hir (or the long bard). He was undoubtedly a good scholar, an eminent Welsh poet, and a great compiler and transcriber of Welsh manuscripts; but the most imprudent of all men. All the manuscripts that Mr. Evans possessed at his death, in 1790, became the property of the late Paul Panton, Esq. of Plâs Gwyn, in Anglesea, in consideration of an annuity of £20, which that gentleman settled upon him. The name Llethyr-Troed probably means "the foot of a declivity or slope." There is a spring of chalybeate water in this parish, which was formerly much resorted to, but its virtue is not now generally known. There are several carneddau or tumuli to be seen on the hills, which the superstition of the vulgar has, as usual, attributed to the agency and work of the devil.

Llan-Gynfelin is situate in the hundred of Genau-'r-Glyn. The church is dedicated to Saint Cynfelyn, a saint who lived about the beginning

beginning of the sixth century. Cynfelyn is also the British name for Cunobeline. This parish is situate on the river Lery, and extends to the bay of Cardigan. Caer Wyddno, or Patches, is a patch of foul ground lying about two leagues from Aberystwith, dry at times and very dangerous; from whence there is a narrow ridge of foul ground to Gwallog, called Sarn Gynfelyn, which makes the bay of Aberystwith. A perch or landmark might be erected on Caer Wyddno, which would be of great service to navigation, and be the means of preventing numbers of ships being lost. Tradition says that Caer Wyddno, was the city or castle of Gwyddno Garanhir, Prince of Cantref y Gwaelod, whose extensive domains were overflowed by the sea about the close of the sixth century. Yet tradition is but a vague authority, unless attended by some corresponding circumstances, and which we fortunately have in this instance. A Welsh bard records this disastrous event in the following words;—

"Uchenaid Gwyddno Garanhir;
"Pan droes y don droes ei dir."
The lamentation of Gwyddno the Long-headed,
When his land was overflowed.

Cantref y Gwaelod is supposed to have occupied that portion of Saint George's Channel which lies between the mainland and a line drawn from Bardsey Isle to Ramsay, in the county of Pembroke. Mr. Edward Lhwyd greatly corroborated this tradition; having observed roots and stumps at a low ebb in the sands between Borth and Aberdyfi, in the county of Cardigan. And Giraldus says, that Saint David's head extended farther into the sea, and that trunks of trees with fresh marks of the axes were apparent.

Llanio is situate in the hundred of Penarth, and is generally considered as the ancient Loventinum of the Romans, and a considerable station on the great western road, called Sarn Elen, between Maridunum or Caermarthen and Penallt, near Machynlleth. Several coins and culinary utensils have been dug up here; and three Roman inscribed stones are built up in the walls of two cottages on this spot. On one of them in the wall by the side of the door is to be read, "Caii artis manibus primus:" and on a chimney of another cottage may be read—"Overioni." The porch of this last house, a very large one, now serving for a seat, but much obliterated, has on it "Cohors Secundæ Augustæ fecit quinque passus;" which shews that a cohort of the second legion of Augustus was stationed here, and built a part of the walls of the city. Almost the whole of this place is covered with fragments of the finest brick, which the Romans must have brought with them. There are also some small remains of pieces of brick-work and lime mixed with common stone still to be seen; and one entire piece, having its surface smooth and polished, was taken up not long ago, and placed at the bottom of an oven then making at a neighbouring mill, where it still remains. In one of the grounds of this farm a large piece of unshapen lead was dug up, which when melted

melted weighed 16 pounds. There is a piece of ground to the south-east of the church, called Cae 'r Castell, or the field of the castle, in which are still the remains of the foundations of buildings.

Llanwenog has its church dedicated to Saint Gwynog, a saint of the congregation of Catwg or Cadog (the wise), and who lived in the middle of the fifth century. The Danes, under their leader Godffryd, invaded South Wales in 981, desolated the county of Pembroke, and demolished Saint David's; but having fought the celebrated battle of Llanwenog, in which the Welsh, probably commanded by Eineon ap Hywel Dda, were victorious, they were forced to retire out of the country. There is a fortress in this parish, called Castell Moyddyn. It is inserted in Mr. Owen's map, but history makes no mention of it; and being in the Cwmwd of Caerwedros, it is highly probable that they are the same.

Llan y Gwyryddon has its church dedicated to Saint Ursula and the Eleven Thousand Virgins. There is in this parish a large common, containing about 800 acres, uninclosed, called King's Common: it is situate on the south-west bank of the river Gwyrefawr. In the church-yard is an ancient monumental stone, which serves as a gate-post, bearing the figure of a cross, much ornamented, but without any inscription.

Silian (or Sulien) church is dedicated to Saint Sulien, a saint who lived in the former part of the sixth century. In the church-yard is an ancient carved stone monument.

Tref Ilar has its church dedicated to Saint Hilary. This parish lies in the vale of Aeron. The old church was pulled down in the month of May, 1806, and a new one of much smaller dimensions erected in its stead. The castle of Tref Ilar was begun by Maelgon ap Rhŷs, and finished by Maelgon Fychan, his son, in the year 1233.

Tremaen, or Tremain, has its church dedicated to Saint Michael. It is supposed to take its name from the vast stone called Llech yr Ast, and the cistvaens near it, which, although in the parish of Llangoedmawr, stand within half-a-mile west of this church.

Troed yr Aur has its church dedicated to Saint Michael. Tradition says that there was formerly a chapel in this parish, called Capel Twr Gwynn; but there are now no vestiges of it. The present name of the parish "Troed yr Aur," signifies *the golden foot*, from the supposition that gold was formerly found at the foot of the mountain on which the church stands; but it was anciently called Llanfihangel Tref Teyrn.

At Bronginin, in the parish of Llanbadarn-fawr, the celebrated poet Dafydd ap Gwylim was born; he is generally styled the Welsh Ovid, and flourished from about the year 1330 to 1370. In the early period of his life he enjoyed the munificent patronage of Ifor the Generous. What signalized his life the most arose from his passion for the fair Morfudd, under the influence of which he composed

posed 147 poems, addressed to her. After all, he failed of obtaining her, though their love was mutual; for her friends sought to render her happy by a wealthy connexion, rather than listen to the persuasive eloquence of his muse. She was, therefore, married to Rhŷs Gwgan, an officer who served in the English army in the celebrated battle of Cressy, in the year 1346; but Davydd ap Gwylim seduced Morfudd to elope with him during the absence of her husband in France, and in consequence of such a breach of the laws he was put in prison. He was soon liberated by the influence of the principal people of the counties of Glamorgan and Monmouth; to whom, in return for their good offices, he composed a most beautiful poem. The works of Davydd were printed in London in 1789, edited by Owen Jones and William Owen. The above-named Ifor the Generous was an ancestor of the Tredegar family.

Ferwick has its church dedicated to St. Pedrog, a saint who lived about the beginning of the seventh century. In this parish is a farm, called Nant y Flymon (or Flyman), which takes its name from the Flemings having landed at a beach near a small brook just by. The desperate resistance they met with is confirmed by a large heap on this farm, near the sea, composed of the bones of the invaders, which frequently now appear as the wind disperses the sand in which they are buried. This mound of sand is very near Mount Church, and the tradition is, that the Flemings, having landed on a small beach called Traeth y Mwnt, were met by the natives, and a bloody battle ensued on the first Sunday after New Year's Day, which from that circumstance was called the Red Sunday, in Welsh Sûl Côch. This appellation was given, no doubt, in consequence of blood having been shed on that day. The neighbourhood was accustomed to meet on that Sunday till within a few years ago, when wrestling and kicking football usually took place. It appears to have been an anniversary commemorating a victory, as the recollection of a defeat would hardly be revived. The parish skirts the river Teifi to its mouth; this river is the Tuerobis fl. æstium of Ptolemy, where vast quantities of salmon, turbot, dories, flounders, herrings, cod, whitings, &c. are taken. A barrow here gives to the tenement whereon it stands the name of Crûg.

Aber Aeron is pleasantly situated on the bay of Cardigan, at the entrance of the river Aeron, and has a small port, the bar of which is dry at low water. Near this place is Sarn Cadwgan.

Plinlimmon, or Pumlumon, is a dreary mountain among many others, situate partly in Cardiganshire and partly in Montgomeryshire, about 15 miles from Aberystwith. The surface of the lower parts of the mountain is covered with soft mossy turf and low heath, but often broken with rugged and tremendous bogs, or in some places entirely overspread with large loose stones, while in others the protuberances of white rocks give it a singular appearance on approaching

approaching its base. The toil in ascending is very considerable, and generally not advisable, unless the day is clear and free from fogs, the concomitants of these mountains; otherwise the curious are involved in impenetrable darkness. On ascending the east side of the peak the view is remarkably fine, but the ascent very troublesome to a pyramid of loose stones resembling a carn, with two more on the summit much larger, supposed to have been used formerly as beacons to give notice of an enemy approaching, by burning fire on the tops, which might be seen from more than ten counties. In a bog near the first carn was found, some years since, the blade of a British spear or pike, called Ffonwayw; it was two-edged, and about 10 inches long, for fastening to the end of a pole, such, perhaps, as Owen Glyndwr used in 1401, when he posted himself on this mountain, with 130 men, to receive succours from his friends and vassals in North and South Wales. From hence his followers made their plundering excursions, and were the terror of all that refused to espouse his cause. Having attained the summit, on a clear day, the views unfold themselves more wild and extensive than it is possible to describe: they exhibit mountains, as it were, over each other, and under the most sublime forms and beautiful hues imaginable, varying and shifting until they insensibly lose themselves in the horizon, and including Cader Idris and Snowdon. Such are the grandeur and picturesque scenery on a clear day, which is rather uncommon, these mountains being generally attended by a heavy and hazy atmosphere, the common precursors of rain. After a copious fall of rain this mountain teems with innumerable cataracts of considerable beauty; but the most celebrated characteristic of this mountain is, that it gives rise to no less than five springs, or rivers, from whence is derived the name *Pum* (five) *Lumon* (springs or fountains). The river Wye issues from a spacious hollow in this mountain, where the water falls, in a narrow stream, several hundred yards nearly perpendicular, till, meeting with various small currents, it soon forms a cataract rolling with astonishing rapidity over a rocky course. From the same ridge of mountains, north-east of the top, rise the Severn and the Rheidol: the latter empties itself into the Irish Channel at Aberystwith; and the former, after an extent of 200 miles, runs into the sea below Bristol. The Llyffnant and Fynach are also considerable streams, but not so important as the preceding. This and all the adjacent hills and enclosures are destitute of wood; neither has the hand of cultivation yet approached its vicinity, which gives the whole a wild and solitary gloom. At a hovel near the bottom of the mountain a guide is sometimes to be had; and the ascent without one is very precarious and difficult.

The following eminent Men were Natives of Cardiganshire:—Edward Lhwyd, antiquary; Rev. Robert Evans, bard; and David ap Gwylim, the Welsh Ovid.

RADNORSHIRE.

RADNORSHIRE.

RADNORSHIRE (called in the Ancient British language Sîr Vaes Yved) possesses every advantage of water, particularly the rivers Wye, Tame, Ithon, and Somergil: likewise several copious streams, as Dulas, Clewedog, Marteg, and Cymaron, which run nearly through the centre of the county, and are much praised by the angler and epicure for an abundance of salmon, trout, and grayling: together with several standing lakes, particularly Llyn Gwyn, near Rhayader, and Glanhilyn, on Radnor Forest, both of which afford plenty of fish. In the vale of Radnor are numerous lime-kilns; but coal is not obtained in this county, though at Llandrindod a brown or blackish earth, plentifully mixed with a mineral bitumen, the certain effect of coal, is very conspicuous. In this district are many mineral springs of great celebrity; and the woods and hills are no less celebrated for game.

RHAYADER,

or Rhaiadr-Gwy, so called from the rumbling noise and impetuosity of the river rustling amidst the resisting rocks, is situate on the river Wye, near the cataract, from whence it takes name (Rhaiadr signifying a cataract). It was formerly the chief village in Maelienydd, the district being so called from its yellowish mountains; but at present Rhayader is a considerable market town. It lies in a valley environed by the neighbouring hills, divided into four streets in the form of a cross: the county gaol was formerly here, but a new one has been erected at Presteign, where the Quarter Sessions are now held. The site of the old gaol is at present a meeting-house, which shews some massive stone pillars; and several rings were found in erecting this religious edifice. In the centre of the town stands the town-hall, a handsome modern square building, erected about the year 1768. The church is also a modern structure, built in the form of an oblong square, with a quadrangular stone tower, and turrets: the internal parts consists of a nave and chancel. In ancient times Rhayader derived considerable importance from its castle, which stood on a nook of the river Wye, at the extremity of Maes-bach, a small common near the town. Of the superstructure nothing remains, but the original foundation may be traced to the south-east, where it has still a deep trench, cut out of a hard rock leading to the river: there is another trench more south, forming three sides of a quadrangle, and about 8 feet deep. There appears to have been left originally, between the two trenches, a narrow space, by which the town held communication with the castle, and which is at present the only entrance. Immediately below the latter is a fosse, about 16 feet

feet deep and 12 wide, running along the foundation of the old fortress until it communicates with a steep precipice, the bottom of which is even with the bed of the river. Adjoining this fosse, at irregular distances, are several barrows, for purposes unknown; and at the distance of two furlongs below the site of the castle there is a large tumulus, called Tommen Llansaintfraed, supposed to be the cemetery of Saint Fraid; near which, on the other side, are two others, but smaller ones. On Cefn Ceido, about half-a-mile from Rhayader, is a tract of land called Pant yr Eglwys, where formerly stood a church, and it is said that the borough extended to that place. To elucidate the form and strength of the primitive fortress of Rhayader is impossible at this remote period, when not even a stone remains to assist our conjectures; however, we are enabled to fix its origin as a military station in the year 1177, and to have been first built by Rhŷs ap Gruffydd, Prince of South Wales, as a check to the depredations and cruelties of his Norman neighbours, who were very troublesome to the Welsh at that period. Caradoc of Llancarvan, in his Chronicles of Wales, briefly mentions that it was completed in the same year; but in 1178 we find the sons of Conan (the latter an illegitimate son of Owen Gwynedd), having joined their forces, marched to attack this castle, but after resting before it for a considerable time without success, they raised the siege and returned to North Wales greatly disappointed. In 1192 Maelgon formed a conspiracy against his father and burnt the castle, which Prince Rhŷs rebuilt in 1194; but it was soon surrendered to Cadwallon, who, after several battles, was defeated by Roger Mortimer, and dispossessed of all his possessions in Maelienydd. From this period hostilities seem to have ceased, and no mention is made of Rhayader Castle until the time of Henry the Third, when it was burnt to the ground by Llewelyn ap Iorwerth, and has not since been rebuilt.

Abbey Cwmhir, the only religious house of this kind in the county, is situate in a delightful valley 7 miles from Rhaiadr-Gwy, on the banks of the Clewedog. The hills around appear very grand, forming an amphitheatre round the fertile site whereon this venerable monastery stood, in a place well calculated to inspire devotion, having many objects truly beautiful and sublime. The stupendous hill on the north is 1511 yards high, with a gradual ascent on one side, called the Park, which was formerly 9 miles in circumference, and stocked with about 300 deer; one of the old gates was visible a few years ago. According to Leland, Abbey Cwmhir was founded by Cadwallon ap Madawc, in 1143, for 60 Cistercian monks, but never finished; the walls remaining are very considerable, and shew an area of 255 feet long and 73 broad, but what the superstructure might have been is uncertain. It is uncertain also of what species of architecture this great monastery was originally composed, having neither door, window, arch, or column remaining; yet the refectory might be

be traced, with a few square apertures in the north side, about two feet from the ground, but for what purpose they were originally designed is uncertain, being too low and small for windows, though possessing every requisite for the admission of air. Amid the fallen fragments on the north-east side the habitations of the monks are supposed to have been, and probably the same which Leland calls the third part, but which was never finished. At this time it is much to be regretted that we have such imperfect accounts of this place, which Leland briefly mentions as having been destroyed by Owen Glyndwr in 1401, in his rebellion against Henry the Fourth. Following this period to the reign of Henry the Eighth, we find Abbey Cwmhir reported by the Commissioners to be worth, in manors, lands, &c. £28. 17s. 4d. per annum, which were granted to Henley and Williams, who are found mentioned in the civil list of that monarch; but how it descended, or by what means it came to the family of the late Sir Hans Fowler, Bart. is uncertain. So it continued till 1771, when the Baronet dying without issue the title became extinct, and the greater part of the estate which formed the revenue of this abbey was sold, except what belongs to Thomas Hodges Fowler, Esq. Report says that some fine specimens of the architecture of this abbey are still in good preservation in Llanidloes church, consisting of 6 arches surrounded with small columns, ending in capitals of palm leaves; and which, according to a date on the roof, were brought from Abbey Cwmhir in 1542, a date corresponding with the dissolution of the monasteries in this kingdom. Some mutilated specimens are likewise to be found about the dwelling house and out-houses on the farm, particularly in the chapel contiguous, founded by Sir William Fowler in 1680, and endowed with a small charge on his tenants in Llanbister, whose church is also reported to have been erected with the stone purloined from the old abbey, as is Y Vanner. This place was many years the residence of the Fowlers, who became seated here in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, as appears by the style of building. The importance of that family cannot be better expressed than by introducing the subsequent adage:—

> There's neither park or deer in Radnorshire,
> Or a man worth five hundred a year,
> Except Sir William Fowler, of Abbey Cwmhir.

Carn, carneddau, or carnedd, are heaps of stones common on the Radnorshire mountains, and in many other places in Wales. The most perfect that are to be seen in this county, is one at Camlow, near Abbey Cwmhir, and another on Gwastedwyn Hill, near Rhaiadr-Gwy. They consist of stones to the amount of 30 or 40 cart loads, thrown down promiscuously to form what is termed a Carn. The origin and use of such memorials have often been discussed, and generally admitted to have been sepulchral monuments erected by the Britons

Britons in commemoration of their heroes or chieftains who fell in battle, and not what some have denominated Carnedd Lladron, or the Carn-Buttain. For those unaccustomed to see these little memorials of the dead, a more general description may be useful and satisfactory. These heaps are found in various situations, and are of different dimensions; but the largest does not much exceed 60 feet in diameter, and about 7 feet deep in the middle, where the carn is always most protuberant, to conceal the chest or stone coffin, which is usually found in this part covered with a large stone. It frequently happens that a circular range of large stones are pitched an end on the outside of the heaps, while the stones contained within are piled loosely in circles about the tomb, and the interstices filled up with lesser stones. Some of the carns are covered with earth, are almost conical, and approach near the form of a tumulus. In many of these carns the stones bear marks of ignition, being remarkably red and brittle by the action of the fire, which appears to have been so vehement in some, that the stones are in a great measure vitrified. To a perfect carn there is always a large stone placed endways within 10, 20, 30, 40, or 50 yards of it, and such as are without them at present may be supposed to have been deprived of them since their first erection, and in consequence of their having been converted to other purposes. There is likewise a small distinction to be observed; for instance, the tumulus and carn appearing together prove the interred to have been some chieftain, while the sepulchres of the commonalty are always found on the hills, where there is a small declivity and hollow to be seen of an oblong form, and the earth heaped like a small hillock; when these are opened a stratum of ashes, blackish, or red burnt earth, is discovered; but in digging a little deeper we soon perceive a difference, and come to the native soil. Mr. Camden (page 588) says, " On the top of a hill called Gwastedin, near Rhaiadr-Gwy, there are three large heaps of stones of that kind which are common on mountains in most, if not in all, the counties in Wales, and are called in South Wales Karneu and in North Wales Karnedheu; they consist of any such lesser stones, from a pound weight to a hundred weight, as the neighbouring places afford, and are confusedly piled up, without any further trouble than the bringing them together and throwing them in heaps. On Plinlimmon mountain, and some other places, there are these Karnedheu so considerably big that they may be supposed to consist of no less than 100 cart-loads of stones, but generally they are much less. They are also found in the North and other parts of England; and are frequent in Scotland and Ireland, being called there by the same British name Kairn, whereof I can give no other account to the curious reader, than that it is a primitive word, and appropriated to signify such heaps of stones. That most of these karnedheu (not to say all) were intended as memorials of the dead I am induced to believe: for that I have myself

myself observed, near the summit of one of them, a rude stone monument (which I shall have occasion hereafter to prove sepulchral), somewhat of the form of a coffer or chest, and I have received unquestionable information of two more such monuments being found of late years in similar places. But what removes all scruple, and puts this question beyond farther debate, is, that it is still the custom in several places to cast heaps of stones on the graves of malefactors and self-murderers; and hence, perhaps, it is, since we can assign no other reason, that the worst of traitors are called Karn-Vradwyr, the most notorious thieves Karn-Lhadron." That this was also a custom among the Romans, appears from the epitaph, ascribed to Virgil on the infamous robber Balista: "but that, nevertheless," continues Mr. Camden, "it was usual among the Britons, before they were known to the Romans, seems evident, for that they are common also in the highlands of Scotland and in Ireland, where their conquests never reached. Now if it be demanded whether malefactors only were thus served in ancient times, or whether other persons indifferently had not such heaps of stones erected to them as sepulchral monuments, I answer, that before Christianity was introduced men of the best quality seem to have had such funeral piles, and such I take to be the largest of them, those especially that have the monuments above-mentioned within them. But since the planting of Christianity, they became so detestable, and appropriated to malefactors, that sometimes the most passionate wish that a man could express to his enemy is, that a Carn be his monument; and, as we have already observed, the most profligate and notorious criminals are distinguished by that word."

Rowland, in his *Mona Antiqua Restaurata*, p. 48, says—"There are also in many places huge coped heaps of stones, as well in this island as in other countries, to be yet seen, which I take to be the relics of some ancient modes and ceremonies of that first, but by that time perverted religion [Druidism]; and these heaps they generally call *Carnedde*—perhaps from Keren-Nedh, a coped heap. It is believed also that these are the burial places of some eminent commanders, who falling and being interred in those places, their admiring soldiers, as a signal specimen of their love and respect to their memory, and to make shew of their numbers, carried each one his stone to lay upon their graves, as they carried earth in their helmets in other countries to raise up a tumulus, or a lasting monument and memorial of them. But the latter part of this surmise is not like to be the true reason of these tumuli; for there are some of these heaps so large, that they require a more numerous army than was in this island to bring every one his stone to raise it up; and, besides, there are certain kinds of stones to be found in some of these Carneddau that have been carried there, as will appear from the quality of them, from very distant parts of the country, which will

seem rather to infer that they were the effects of some kind of sacrifice, where every family, or perhaps every particular person, either at some peculiar festivals, or occasionally as they passed by, brought and offered every one his stone; of which we have some glimmering in the ancient compound word Coel-Faen, used to this day, by which is expressed what is good and valuable."

Returning from this digression, on leaving Rhayader we proceed in an easterly direction, and at the distance of nine miles pass through Penybont, formerly called Rhyd-y-Clyfon, a small hamlet by the side of the river Ithon, which takes its course from Llanbadarn-Vynydd, and passes by this place. There is a spring of sulphureous water in the village, and another of chalybeate on an adjacent common; they are well-known, but as this country abounds with springs of this nature they are not in use.

Three miles north of Penybont is Llan-Ddewi-Ystrad-Ennau, the church of which is dedicated to Saint David: it is a small village in a narrow vale near the river Ithon. The church is a tolerable structure, consisting of a nave and chancel, and has two small tablets, in commemoration of Phillips and Burton; the latter of whom, an eccentric character, resided in a large old house there, and possessed a considerable estate in the neighbourhood, which, to the exclusion of his relatives, he devised to a stranger. In this district are several vestiges of antiquity, particularly the Gaer (or fortification), which occupies the summit of a high hill close to the village, and is apparently a camp of great extent; it is inaccessible on the side towards the Ithon; the remainder is defended by two parallel intrenchments, probably the work of Cadwallon, or of some of the Mortimers, in the twelfth century.

The Mortimers, who were descended from the niece of Gonora, wife of Richard the First, Duke of Normandy, and were the first of the Normans who, having overcome Edric Sylvaticus, or the Wild, a Saxon chieftain, gained a considerable part of this small territory, and having continued for a long period the leading men of the county, at length, in the person of Roger Mortimer, Lord of Wigmore, rose to the distinction of Earl of March, so created by Edward the Third about 1328. Roger, the first Earl, soon afterwards was sentenced to death, having been accused of insolence to the King and treason to the State, of favouring the Scots to the prejudice of England, of conversing over-familiarly with the King's mother, and of contriving the death of Edward the Second, father of the King. Earl Roger had by his wife Jane Jenevil (who brought him large revenues as well in Ireland as England), a son called Edmund, who suffered for his father's crimes, and was deprived of his inheritance and the title of Earl; but his son Roger was received into favour, and had not only the title of Earl of March restored, but was also created Knight of the Garter at the first institution of that noble order.

This

This Roger married Philippa Montague, by whom he had Edmund Earl of March, who married Philippa, the only daughter of Lionel Duke of Clarence, the third son of King Edward the Third, whereby he obtained the earldom of Ulster in Ireland, and the lordship of Clare. After his decease in Ireland, where he had governed with great approbation, his son Roger succeeded, being both Earl of March and Ulster, whom King Richard designated as his successor to the crown, as being in right of his mother the next heir, but he died before King Richard, leaving issue Edmund and Anne. King Henry the Fourth (who had usurped the government), suspecting Edmund's interest and title to the crown, exposed him to many hazards, so that, being taken prisoner by Owen Glyndwr, he died of grief and discontent, leaving his sister Anne to inherit: she was married to Richard Plantaganet, Earl of Cambridge, whose posterity became (in her right) Earls of March, and laid claim to the crown, which in the end they obtained, and Edward the Fourth's eldest son, who was Prince of Wales and Duke of Cornwall, had also conferred on him, as an additional honour, the title of Earl of March.

On a hill opposite the Gaer is Bedd Ygre, or Ygris's grave, a large mound or tumulus of earth, encompassed by a small moat like Caersws. Of this description were all the monuments which the ancient Britons erected in honour of their chiefs or great men. This mode of interment continued many ages before and after the introduction of Christianity; but when the custom of burying in churchyards became general, they were condemned, and afterwards chiefly used for criminals.—Two miles from hence, on a small elevation, stood Castle Cymaron, of which not a fragment of the superstructure remains; the site and moat are still visible The fortress is supposed to have been erected by the Normans in the eleventh century, but was soon after destroyed by the Welsh, and again rebuilt by Hugh, the son of Randolph, Earl of Chester, in 1142, when all Maelienydd became subject to the Normans. In 1174, Cadwallon ap Madoc obtained this castle and lordship, for which he did homage to Henry; but Roger Mortimer, having raised a considerable force in 1194, entered Maelienydd and dispossessed Cadwallon of all his lands in this district, and fortified the Castle of Cymaron. In this family it evidently continued for ages, as we find Roger Mortimer died, in 1360, possessed of the castles of Knuclas, Gwyrthrynion, Cwmdauddwr, Maelienydd, and Pilleth, in the same lordship, which perhaps, on the demise of Llewelyn, in 1282, Edward the First confirmed as a legal inheritance. Henry the Eighth, however, being of Welsh extraction, curtailed the power and ambition for conquest of these provincial chieftains, and redressed many grievances to which the Welsh were before subject.

About seven miles southward of Penybont are Llandrindod Wells, with

with the village of Llandrindod, having its church dedicated to the Holy Trinity: this place is situate on a common five miles in length and one broad; the land adjoining Llandrindod is rural and gradually ascending, exhibiting a spacious plain, with moderately high and steep hills, so that the air cannot stagnate, nor the plain be incessantly watered with a deluge of rain; the soil or surface of the earth about these wells is of a blackish brown, particularly rich, and plentifully mixed with a mineral bitumen, which is generally the indication of coal, but no attempt has yet been made to obtain that valuable fossil. There are several tumuli and ancient fortifications in this parish; and a lead mine had been worked from the remotest antiquity down to 1797, but it is now deserted. The foundations of an ancient chapel, called Llan Faelon, were lately dug up in the middle of a corn field, but nothing traditionary now remains respecting it. When the Llandrindod waters were first used for their medicinal virtues is uncertain, but they are generally believed to have been introduced to public notice about 1670, and then used indiscriminately; but since 1750 a great number of people from different parts of the kingdom have resorted here to use these waters for various complaints, and with great success. It appears that the increasing fame of Llandrindod Wells had induced a Mr. Grosvenor, of Shrewsbury, in 1749, to make some alterations and improvements for the reception of company, who annually made their pilgrimage here; for that purpose he took a lease of several houses, and at a great expense repaired them with additional buildings, particularly one, which was spacious enough to contain several hundred visitors, besides affording every accommodation and amusement that could be wished during a residence at this place. The wells, three in number, are all within a short distance of each other, without either participating in the qualities of the other, and are thus denominated—1st, the rock water; 2d, saline pump-water; and 3d, sulphur water.—Llandrindod now ranks high among the places of fashionable resort.

Returning, at the distance of about three miles, we pass through the village of Llandegle, or Llan-degla, pleasantly situate on the banks of the river-Cammeron, and remarkable for its antique church (dedicated to St. Tecla, a female saint), and for its rural situation. Contiguous to this place is Blân-Edw Well, containing a sulphureous vitriolic water, which rises in a field near the road: the spring is conducted into a dilapidated building, which serves also for a bath: the water is covered with a brown scum, appears rather blackish, and emits an abominable stench, but has not an unpleasant taste.

At the distance of four miles from Llandegle is the village of Llanvihangel-Nant-Melin. It is pleasantly situate on a small stream, which empties itself into the river Somergil, and the name signifies "Saint Michael's on the mill brook."

About

About two miles beyond this place is New Radnor, or Maes-yfed-newydd, situate near the head of the Somergil at a narrow entrance of a pass, between two pointed hills, called Radnor Forest, and covered with verdure to the very summit, which is the characteristic of this district. Camden says, "Near this place is a vast wilderness *dismal to behold*, by reason of many crooked ways and high mountains, into which, as a place of safe refuge, that bane of his native country, King Vortigern (whose very memory the Britons curse), withdrew himself when he had at last seriously repented of his abominable wickedness, in calling in the English Saxon, and marrying incestuously his own daughter: but God's vengeance pursuing him, he was consumed by lightning, together with his city, Kaer-Gwortigern, which he had built for his refuge." This, however, is clearly an error, as will appear to the reader by referring to Vortigern's Valley, in the county of Carnarvon.

New Radnor, or Maes-yfed-newydd, was formerly the chief town in the county, but is at present a most miserable place, consisting of about one hundred houses, and several of these of very mean appearance, the town having fallen off very much from its former importance. Its decline was originally occasioned by the tranquillity of the times not requiring it to be kept fortified and garrisoned as a frontier town, its proximity to Presteigne and Kington, and its cold situation, arising from its contiguity to the neighbouring hills, together with the scarcity of fuel. From the present appearance of the town, it seems to have been regularly laid out, having three longitudinal streets called High Street, Broad Street, and Water Street, which were intersected by transverse ones; of these several have at present no buildings, and some of them are only footpaths. The town hall and prison are opposite to each other, and are situate in Broad-street. The church of New Radnor is dedicated to St. Mary, and stands on an eminence above the town: it is a small edifice, consisting of a nave, a side aisle on the south, and a chancel; it has also a tower, which contains four large bells, a smaller one, and a clock. Whoever carefully examines the masonry of this building, will perceive that the tower and a considerable part of the church were erected on a portion of wall which was probably part of a former church, and which is supposed, from the quality of the stones with which it was built, to have been coeval with the castle. The style of the windows gives some reason to believe that the latter edifice was erected in the reign of Edward the Third: the tower, which is at present covered with a tiled roof, was originally higher, and most probably embattled. In ancient times New Radnor was evidently of greater importance than it is at present, being originally enclosed by a square wall, with four gates, which appear to have been Roman, from the similarity they bear to the stations of those at Caerleon and Caerwent. It had also a castle, built on an eminence above the town, and was probably a fortress

fortress of considerable strength, having an entire command of the town, besides defending a narrow pass leading to it between two hills. Owen Glyndwr, according to Caradoc, defaced the town in the reign of Henry the Fourth, and burnt the castle; he afterwards ordered sixty of the garrison to be immediately beheaded in the yard. Camden mentions that the castle was in ruins in his time, and much neglected, except a piece of gate, which was then repaired. There are some walls still remaining, and they are traditionally reported to have been of considerable height. The entrenchments about the castle are nearly entire; the outer ward, called *Baili Glas*, or the *green court yard*, is still distinct from the inner one or keep, and retains its original form. The site of the town walls, with the moat, are very visible.

Near New Radnor, but in an obscure situation, is a cataract, 70 feet in height, called "Water-break-its-Neck," so nominated on account of its precipitous descent into a vast hollow; it is situate about two miles westward of the town, and is surrounded by craggy declivities of loose fragments of schistus, which are frequently set in motion by the wind, and roll down in all directions, making the amazed spectator almost tremble for his safety. This cataract would appear to much greater advantage if it possessed the concomitants, trees and shrubs, or was in the vicinity of good plantations: instead of this, the whole has a barren appearance, for nothing seems to vegetate in the soil or places adjacent, but everything is as rude and wild as when by nature formed. There is an entrenched dyke at the western extremity of the parish of New Radnor, about a mile from the town, which was continued from one side of the narrow vale to the other, and tradition still preserves the remembrance of a battle having been fought in War Close, a field at a short distance from the town.—At the distance of about six miles from New Radnor is

PRESTEIGN,

or Llan-Andras, once a small village, but by the countenance of Martin, Bishop of Saint David's, it rose to such a degree of elegance as to eclipse the borough town of Radnor. It was, in Leland's time, noted for a good market of corn, where many from the cantref of Maelienydd resorted to buy and sell. The town is pleasantly situated near the river Lug, which is celebrated for its pleasant trout and grayling fishing, and may be properly called the modern capital of Radnorshire, and where the County Assizes, &c. are kept. The place likewise exhibits strong traces of great extent and original grandeur, far superior to its present appearance, although the streets it now contains are neat and well-formed.—From hence the little vale inclosing Presteign, and watered by the river Lug, may be seen to great advantage, as also Stepleton Castle, an ancient gothic mansion, rising from a rock in its centre, where (tradition says) a gentleman

man of the name of Wallwyn resided about 1282, who is reported to have been very active, or the principal concerned, in betraying Prince Llewelyn ap Gruffydd at Buallt in that year. The chief object worthy of attention is the parish church, dedicated to Saint Andrew, which contains a few tablets of the families of Owen, Price, and Davies, with an altar-piece of tapestry, representing Christ's entry into Jerusalem: the walls are decorated with figures of Moses, Aaron, Time, and Death, which are well executed. Over the great chancel window, on a stone, is inscribed M.P.L. 1244, which letters are generally supposed to mean Martin, the Pope's Legate. On the west of the town is a beautiful little eminence, or site of an ancient castle, now called Warden Walk, and is a donation given by Lord Oxford for the use of the inhabitants. Near this town is a place called "The King's Turning," meaning, as it is generally supposed, King Charles's turning, there being in one of the old parish registers the following note:—*In the time of Oliver Cromwell, Nicholas Taylor, Esq. lived at the Lower Heath, in this parish, and when King Charles the First fled before Oliver Cromwell, then in the neighbourhood of Hereford, he dined and slept at the Unicorn Inn, in Leominster, the first day, and the next two nights he slept at Mr. Taylor's (a short distance from the King's Turning); from thence he rode over the hills to Newtown, and from thence to Chester.*" At that time the Reverend John Scull had the living of Presteign, but, like many of his unfortunate brethren of that tumultuous period, was deprived of it, and an entry in Latin to that effect is made in another part of the said old register. Presteign is a very improving town; and New Courts for holding the Assizes, &c. have recently been erected here.—A small bridge over the Lug, close to the town, connects the counties of Hereford and Radnor.

KNIGHTON,

or Tréf-y-Clawdd, (the church of which is dedicated to Saint Edward, and was erected in the year 1752,) is so called from its situation near Offa's Dyke, which runs below it, and extends from the mouth of the Dee to that of the Wye. Camden and other authors have confounded this celebrated boundary with Watt's Dyke, in North Wales, which is nearly equal in depth but not in length. Knighton is situate at the head of a deep vale, and is the handsomest town in the county, descending in several steep streets, which present very picturesque objects to the adjacent country. This romantic vale is also surrounded by hills, which are well clothed with wood and verdure; and it is considerably enriched by the winding course of the river Teme. There was formerly a castle here, which is entirely demolished: here are also two barrows.

A little to the north of Knighton is Caer Caradoc, a hill much honoured in former times, as the place which Caractacus fortified

(A. D. 53) with a rampart of stones, and where he held out against the Romans under Ostorius (whose camp is visible opposite) till the rude fortification was broken through, which compelled the Britons to retreat, and their leader, betrayed by Queen Cartismandua, was carried in chains to Rome.

In the northern part of the parish of Pillith, or Pwll Llaith, i. e. the moist pit, which is an elevated common, there are several tenements, called Hendrecarreg, i. e. "the old town of stone," where a town of that name is said to have been anciently, and those within the limits of that borough now pay less chief rent. On the north side of the church (which is dedicated to St. Mary), in the churchyard, is a well, which was formerly esteemed beneficial in diseases of the eyes; the well is walled round, but some of the stones are now fallen into it. Upon a hill in this parish, called Bryn Glâs, about a mile north of the church, a battle was fought on the 2d of June, 1402, between Owain Glyndwr and Sir Edward Mortimer, in which the latter was defeated and taken prisoner, with the loss of 1100 men slain. Shakspeare makes particular mention of it, from the circumstances of some indecencies committed by the Welsh women on the dead bodies of the men of Herefordshire, who were the friends and vassals of the powerful house of Mortimer, whose castle was situate at Wigmore, about seven miles distant.

In the parish of Llananno, about nine miles north-west of Knighton, is Castle Timboth, or Daybôd, situate on a steep hill called Crogen, above the river Ithon. The situation is extremely wild and pleasant, but the scite is naturally strong, and almost inaccessible on all sides but one, which appears to have been well defended by intrenchments still visible. Of the old structure nothing remains except a confused heap of thick walls; but the scite and a portion of the keep may still be traced, having a deep moat round the whole. Nothing is known of its history, except that it was destroyed by Llewelyn ap Gruffydd, Prince of Wales, in the year 1260. Here is a spring of mineral water called New Well, which is said to be very efficacious in scorbutic and scrofulous complaints; there are also the remains of an old castle, called Ty-yn-y-bwlch, or "the house in the defile," situate on an almost inaccessible rock in a narrow passage, overhanging the river Ithon, and was probably the residence of the Reguli of Maelienydd.

Cefn Llys Castle is situate in the borough of that name, and stands on the bank of the river Ithon, which almost surrounds it, except on one side. The scite of this castle appears strongly fortified by nature, and so admirably situated for a place of defence, as to be almost invulnerable before the invention of artillery, except on one side, where one hundred men might defend it against a thousand. It is called Castle Glynn Ithon, and is supposed to have been built by some of the Welsh princes to prevent the incursions of the Normans. About the year 1262 a detachment of Llewelyn's men took this fortress

tress by surprise, and made the governor prisoner, but most of the garrison were put to the sword. The same year Sir Roger Mortimer retook it, when he repaired it, and appointed a governor for its defence. Camden describes it as in ruins in his time.—The church of this place is dedicated to St. Michael.

Passing through the villages of Norton (the church of which is dedicated to Saint Andrew) and Kinnerton (where was formerly a castle, and the church of which, dedicated to Saint Edward, is a modern structure, erected in 1752), we arrive at Old Radnor, or Maesyfed-Hên, frequently called Pen-y-craig, *i. e.* "the summit of a rock." It is situate on the banks of the river Somergil. Its castle was entirely destroyed by Rhys ap Gruffydd in the reign of King John. This was probably the city Magos, called by Antoninus Magnos, and where the *Notitia Provinciarum* informs us the commander of the Pacensian regiment lay in garrison, under a Lieutenant of Britain, in the reign of Theodosius the younger. Most of the writers of former periods called the inhabitants of this county Magaseta. Charles the First, after the battle of Naseby, and during his flight from the parliamentary forces, slept on the 6th of August, 1645, at the Priory house at Brecon, and dined with Sir Henry Williams, of Gwernevet, whence he continued his route to Old Radnor, where he supped on the 7th, and was perhaps the only royal guest that ever sought accommodation in this ancient city. This, like many other Welsh towns, must be considered and respected more for what it has been than anything it can at present boast of; for at this time the houses are few and mean; indeed a more decayed place cannot well be found. The church is a venerable old edifice, with a large tower and six excellent bells, and consists of a nave and chancel, within which are several handsome monuments to the family of Lewis of Harpston, whose seat lies contiguous, and also a curious skreen richly carved in wood, which, contrary to the usual mode of architecture, extends across the nave and two side aisles.—Lime is burnt in great quantities at Old Radnor to supply the county.

On leaving Old Radnor, proceeding in a southerly direction, at the distance of about seven miles we arrive at Pain's Castle, situate in a small hamlet of that name, containing a few good houses, and where several fairs are held. It is believed to have received its name from Paganus or Pain, a Norman, who built the castle, which was besieged and taken by Prince Rhys in the year 1196, and kept until William de Bruce humbly desired of him peace and the castle, which the Prince granted. In 1198 Gwenwynwyn besieged the castle, and after laying before it for three weeks was obliged to raise the siege. In 1215, according to Caradoc, Giles de Bruce, Bishop of Hereford, bestowed the castle on Walter Fychan, the son of Eineon Clyd; and this is the last account we have of it in history. The remains are very inconsiderable, being little more than the scite and a few loose fragments

fragments of its outward walls, which shew that there was formerly a building on this spot, but as to its form and extent we have neither history nor tradition to assist our conjectures on the subject.

About four miles to the north-west of Pain's Castle is Collwen Castle, or Maud's Castle; it is situate in Colwent, and stands on the Forest Farm, south-east of Aberedw, in the parish of Llansaintfred. This castle was anciently very famous, and belonged to Robert de Todney, a man of considerable rank in the time of Edward the Second. It is supposed to have taken its name from Maud de Saint Valery, the wife of William Breose, who rebelled against King John; it was afterwards destroyed by the Welsh, but rebuilt in 1231 by Henry the Third, on his return to England, after a fruitless attempt against the Welsh. Of the original fortress nothing now remains, except a grass-plot, which was the scite of the old castle.

In Aber-Edw parish there are the remains of an old castle, about 400 yards from the church (which is dedicated to Saint Gwydd), and near the confines and junction of the rivers Edw and Wye; and at a little distance is a high mount hanging over the river Edw, and commanding a romantic view of the inaccessible rocks on the other side, which are greatly admired. Out of this castle Llewelyn ap Gruffydd, the last Prince of Wales, retired in order to meet in conference with the Lords of Llandovery, and, to prevent being pursued, he caused his horse to be shod the wrong way; but the blacksmith afterwards betrayed him, and he was killed in a field about two miles from Buallt and six from his own castle, which gave rise to the epithet, Brâdwr Aber-Edw, *i. e.* "Aber-Edw Traitors." About a quarter of a mile from the castle is a cave formed in the rock, about sixteen feet square, having a very small entrance, and called Llewelyn's Cave, whither, it is said, he used to retire for security in cases of imminent danger. The river Edw is small, but is famous for its trout, which are very abundant and good.

In the parish of Bugaildy or Bugail-dŷ, *i. e.* "the Shepherd's Cot" (the church of which is dedicated to Saint Michael), is an ancient British fortification, with great remains of building, which, according to immemorial tradition, was the residence of Uthyr, commonly surnamed Pendragon, and at the bottom of the hill is a field called the Bloody Field, where it is said a battle was fought.

The church of Cwm-y-dau-ddwr, dedicated to Saint Fraed, is a neat structure, having been rebuilt in 1778; the stone wall is of excellent masonry.—At Nant-wyllt, four miles S. W. by W. from the mother church, a chapel was erected in 1772, which is a handsome but small edifice.—At Nant-Madoc, between the church of Cwm-y-dau-ddwr and chapel of Nant-wyllt, the ruins of Chapel Madoc are to be seen, near to which there was a monastery. An adjoining farm, called Coed-y-Mynach, *i. e.* "the Monk's Wood," supplied the monastery with wood for culinary and other purposes. The road may be

be traced from hence over the mountains to the Abbey of Strata Florida, in the county of Cardigan, whither the monks, on certain occasions, went in procession.

In the parish of Glâs Cwm are the Blaen Edw wells: they are famous for the cure of cutaneous diseases. In the month of June, 1806, a boy discovered a great quantity of silver coins of King William in a mole-hill on the mountains. There is a fine cascade between the parishes of Llan-deilo-Graban and Llan-Stephan, formed by the brook Bach-wy, which is the boundary between them.

Llandeilo-Graban is situate in a wild romantic spot, almost surrounded with rocks of a great height, and difficult of access. The pool below, called Craig-pwll dû, or "the Rock of the Black Pool," is of great depth, and one of the rocks is called Domini Castra.

The parish of Llandeilo Tal-y-bont (the church of which is dedicated to Saint Teilo), abounds with coal, and is situate upon the river Lloughor. The ancient monastery of Court-y-Carne, now in ruins, to which belonged a manor and a mill, was appendant to the Abbey of Cadoxton.

Boughrood (the church of which is dedicated to Saint Cynog) is pleasantly situated on the banks of the river Wye, and makes a beautiful bend in the form of a horse-shoe. Below the ford here, and from which it probably derives its name, part of the wall of the old castle of Boughrood and the moat still remain, and the site commands a noble view of the river and adjacent country.

Clyro has its church dedicated to St. Michael, and is situated on the banks of the river Wye. The castle that once stood here is demolished. Here are some monastic lands, called Tir y Mynach; and a spring of mineral water, which is said to be efficacious in complaints of the eyes. This parish is separated from the county of Hereford by a small brook, and from the county of Brecknock by the river Wye.

Diserth is situated on the banks of the river Ithon; here are some ancient fortifications which are supposed to be British; and a place called Maes Madoc is celebrated for a battle fought there between Prince Llewelyn and the English, a short time before that Prince's death. The church is dedicated to St. Gwydd, a saint of whom little is known.

Llanbadarn Fynydd. In this parish is a sulphureous spring called Ffynnon Ddewi, or "Saint David's Well," which is said to be useful in scorbutic complaints, but it is not of a very strong quality. This village is situated on the banks of the river Teme, and the church is dedicated to St. Padarn.

In the parish of Llanbister are two or three black sulphureous mineral springs, and one whose waters are of a reddish copper colour: in this last-mentioned spring copper, in an hour or two, will turn white, and silver will become yellow. The black springs are resorted

resorted to in the cure of cutaneous diseases; one red and another black spring rise in a meadow about ten yards apart. The village is situated on the banks of the Teme. There is a noted spring and waterfall near the church, called Pistyll Gynllo; the church also is dedicated to St. Cynllo, who lived about the middle of the fifth century.

Llan Elwedd. The church is situate on an eminence, about two miles from Buallt, and at a little distance from the river Wye; near the road leading from Buallt to Rhaiader are the ruins of a castle, with a moat round it, which is said to have belonged to Prince Llewelyn.

Llanfihangel-rhŷd-Ithon. "This parish (says an eminent divine) is usually spelt Llanfihangel-rhŷd-Ithon, *i. e.* 'St. Michael upon the fords of the river Ithon,' according to some opinions; but I do not see the propriety of this application, as the distance from the church to the river is three miles. According to other authories, which in my opinion are more probable, it is Llanfihangel Rhiw'r Teithon, there being at this day a road above the church, passing over the forests to Radnor, called Rhiw'r Teithon. Rhiw is applicable either to the acclivity or declivity of a road, and Teithon is travelling or journies, it being in former times the thoroughfare from hence and the adjoining parishes, over the forest of Radnor, to Radnor. This is the tradition handed down from father to son from time immemorial, in this parish, and is in my opinion the proper derivation."

Nant-Mêl, the church of which is dedicated to St. Cynllo, is situate near the river Dulas. Some persons derive the name from a small brook which rises in that parish, called Nant y Mêl, *i. e.* "the Honey Brook." There is a fine piece of water on the Rhusfa, called Llynngwynn, a mile in circumference, which abounds with carp and eels.—On Gwastadedd hill is a vast pile of stones, the remains, perhaps, of some tumulus or sepulchral monument, but so decayed and disfigured by time that it is hardly possible to guess at its original use or intention, except from the analogy which it seems to bear with those that are more perfect.

BRECKNOCKSHIRE.

BRECKNOCKSHIRE:

IN British Brycheinog, so called, as the inhabitants believe, from Prince Brechanius, who is said to have had a numerous and holy offspring, to wit, 24 sons and 24 daughters, all Saints. Giraldus Cambrensis, who was archdeacon of Brecon upwards of 500 years ago, saith, "It is a land abounding in corn, pastures, wood, wild deer, and fish of a superior sort, particularly trout in the Usk, called Umbræ: it is enclosed on all sides except the north by high hills, on the west Cantre Bychan, and on the south Cadair Arthur, which has a noted spring on the summit. The most considerable rivers are the Wysg, Honddu, Yrvon, and Wye; these and all its little rivulets are noted for fine trout and the best of salmon."

BRECON, OR BRECKNOCK,

In Welsh Aber-Honddu, called so from being situate on the conflux of the rivers Usk and Honddu, over which (within the town) are three bridges, is situate in a very romantic place, abounding with broken grounds, torrents, dismantled towers, and ruins of various kinds. It was formerly well walled, with four gates, namely, High-gate, West-gate (by the Black-friars), Water-gate, and East-gate; besides these, there was one without, in the suburbs, called Porthene St. Mariæ; at present it consists of three handsome streets, in the most spacious of which stand the county hall and market place. Its compact form and neatness give it an advantage over most towns in Wales, whilst its interior beauty renders it not less striking. The place is in general well built, and some of its modern houses may be called magnificent.—Its bridges and churches add much to the general appearance, whilst few towns in the principality can perhaps boast of such public walks as those of the Wysg, and within the groves of its old priory. It also boasts of some noble ruins of a castle, which stands on a hill to the east, commanding the whole town. Leland says, part of the castle was built by Lady Malabrune; but it is more probable that Barnard de Newmarch, a Norman nobleman, who won the Lordship about 1090 or 1094, built it himself, to secure his new conquest. The castle is divided from the town by the river Honddu, over which there is a lofty bridge; there are still some remains of the Keep and Ely Tower, so named from Dr. Morton, Bishop of Ely, who was confined here by order of Richard the Third, and committed to the custody of Henry Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, who some time before procured the Crown for Richard; but the Duke being disappointed in his expectations, did, in concert with the Bishop his prisoner, plan within the walls of this castle the famous union of the two houses of York and Lancaster, which afterwards brought the Earl

of

of Richmond, subsequently Henry the Seventh, to the throne of England, by his marriage with Elizabeth, daughter of King Henry the Fourth. This castle has been large and apparently magnificent, for it is easy to trace the main body, the citadel, and all the parts of this ancient fortification. On an ascent close to the Wysg is the priory, situate amid the gloom of trees, which exhibit a profusion of rich gothic workmanship, forming a pleasing contrast with the feathered foliage that floats about the ruins, chiefly composed of the grey stone of the country. The approach to the venerable remains of this priory is over a good stone bridge, almost joining an embattled wall. The priory was originally founded by Bernard Newarch in the reign of Henry the First, and was valued at £112. 14s. 0d.; the house is now inhabited by a private family; the south and east sides of the cloisters, with the refectory, are still entire, with other offices: the church is now parochial, and is a very magnificent erection, built in the form of a cross, near 200 feet long and 60 broad, but not so ancient as the original foundation of the priory. In the centre of this cross rises an embattled tower, about 90 feet high, which lies open to the church above the roof. Leland, mentioning this place, says, "In the town is a mighty great chapel, with a large tower for a bell, of hard stone costly squared, with the expense of one thousand pounds." The chancel has no side aisles, but the body of the church has, and it is also wainscotted, flat at top, and elegantly painted; on the north side is a painted cloister, which opens into the church, and joins it to the priory house; east of the church is the ambulatory, or where the monks used to walk or meditate, now called the priory walks, and are wonderfully pleasant and romantic, shaded by noble trees, and watered by the river Honddu, which rolls at the feet of them, but almost hidden by the thick wood on each side.—The College, once a Dominican Priory, stands at the east end of the town, and apparently, by the present remains both within and without the chapel, is as old as the time of Bernard de Newmarch, who is said to have been the founder also of this place. There still remains part of its old gateway, built in a quadrangular form, likewise a cloister, and the refectory of St. Mary's chapel, with the ancient choir, and nave for burying. Henry the Eighth converted this place into a college, by the name of the "College of Christ Church, Brecknock," and joined it to the college of Abergavenny: it still remains, and consists of the Bishop of Saint David's, who presides as a dean, a precentor, treasurer, chancellor, and nineteen other prebendaries. Here were buried three Bishops, Mainwaring, Lucy, and Bull.—In the town and fields contiguous to the castle have been found several Roman coins, and there are now several large intrenchments to be seen on the hills about Brecknock, but the most remarkable is Ygaer, or "the fortification," two miles north-west of the town. This is indisputably of Roman origin, and situate on a gentle eminence, near the river Wysg; part of

of the walls still remain, and within the camp some square Roman bricks were found, all inscribed LEG. II. AUG. corresponding with those found at Caerleon. Close to this camp, in the middle of a highway, is a remarkable monument, called Maen-y-Morynion, a rude pillar about six feet high.

About eleven miles north-east from Brecon, on the road, is the small village of Glâsbury, in the neighbourhood of which are several gentlemen's seats, particularly Tregoyd, Lord Viscount Hereford; Maeslough Hall, W. Wilkins, Esq.; Gwernallt Lodge, Sir Edward Williams, Bart.; Dderw House, Sir Charles Morgan, Bart.; and Llangoed Castle, J. Macnamara, Esq. The parish is situate on the banks of the river Wye, and its soil is the boast of the county of Brecknock.—The chapel of Felindre is in ruins.—The small parish of Aber-Llyfni adjoins, and is, indeed, almost encircled by the parish of Glâsbury: its chapel has been in ruins for the last sixty years, and all the duty has been done at Glâsbury. It belonged to the family of Williams of Gwernyfed, or Gwernevet, whose ancient owners are there interred.

At the distance of about four miles from the village of Glâsbury is Hay, or Tregelli, called also Haseley, a small town, built in a pleasant situation near the river Wye, and seems to have been well known to the Romans, whose coins are frequently found here, and some remains of walls. It fell into decay about the time of Owen Glyndwr, who, among other devastations committed on this country, burnt this place; but Leland says, that there were in his time the remains of a strong wall with three gates. Here was formerly a very superb castle, but by whom built is very uncertain. We find in the year 1215 that Llewelyn ap Gruffydd dispossessed Giles de Bruce (Bishop of Hereford) of it, in consequence of his conspiracy against him; but when Llewelyn, in the year 1216, refused King John his assistance against the French, he marched hence from Hereford, and destroyed the castle. This fortress was composed mostly of Norman architecture, and occupied the highest lands of the river's bank, near the parish church, but nothing more remains of it at present than a mount of earth with intrenchments. The castle, since its first erection, was removed to near the centre of the town, and hath at present its gothic gateway; but a large house of the reign of James the First occupies the ancient site of the castle, and the few remains are converted into a mansion house belonging to the Wellington family. The castle and manor of Hay were given by King Edward the First to Humphrey de Bohun, on his marriage with Maud, daughter of William de Fiennes: It afterwards came into the possession of the Dukes of Buckingham, and now belongs to Mr. Wellington. Within the town were the remains of the mansion of a gentleman named Wallwine, by whose means, it is said, Llewelyn was taken in the neighbourhood of Buallt. Hay suffered a great loss in the winter of 1794, when the resistless torrent

torrent of the Wye carried away its handsome stone bridge.—The church of Hay is dedicated to Saint Mary, and the only thing at present worth the traveller's peculiar notice is the view from its church-yard, which is extremely grand and beautiful.

Dinas Castle, situate on the top of a hill, one mile from Blaen Llevenu and about nine south of Hay, is now entirely in ruins, and almost level with the ground, yet there are the appearances of three courts walled about. Contiguous were three parks and a forest; the parks are now laid down, but had formerly a great number of red deer. The people about Dinas burnt the castle, to prevent its falling into the enemy's hands, and so becoming expensive and troublesome to the country as a regular fortress.

BUALT, BUILTH, OR BUALLT,

According to Carlisle, means "the Castle Ascent;" but signifying, according to Humphrey Lhwyd, "Ox Cliff, or Oxen Holt;" is a neat market town, pleasantly situate on a small plain surrounded with wood and mountains, with a handsome stone bridge, which connects the counties of Brecknock and Radnor. This small town is regularly built, having two parallel streets, which form irregular terraces on the side of a deep declivity. The principal of these streets is very near the river Wye, but extremely narrow and ill shaped, and the houses for the greater part mean and irregular, but are now considerably improving.—Buallt has long been extolled for the salubrity of its air, and for the singular beauty of its position on the banks of one of the finest rivers in South Wales (the Wye), and is encompassed by such magnificent scenery, that many gentlemen have been induced to fix their residence in its vicinity, besides having the benefit of Llandrindod Wells, only seven miles distant. This town has also a claim to great antiquity, being the same that Ptolemy calls the Bullæum Silurum of the Romans. In the neighbourhood are several intrenchments, in which, we are informed, have been found Roman bricks, with this inscription—LEG. II.; but the most remarkable and best preserved of the intrenchments in these parts is near the road leading from Buallt to Brecon. In recurring to the Chronicle of Caradog, we find this place suffered considerably by the Danes in 893, who, being persecuted by Alfred, sailed to Wales, and after destroying the country about the coast, advanced to Buallt, which they likewise demolished. The same fatal consequences happened in 1216; for when Reynold de Bruce peremptorily broke off his alliance with Llewelyn ab Iorwerth, to make peace with Henry the Third, the former destroyed all Buallt except the castle. Like most places of importance in former times, this appears to have had a castle for its defence, built by the Bruces or Mortimers, but being out of repair in 1209, Gilbert Earl of Glocester fortified it for his own use. About 1215 we find it in the possession of Giles de Bruce, Bishop of Hereford;

ford; but when he formed a conspiracy against Llewelyn ap Gruffydd, the latter came in person to Buallt, and had the castle delivered to himself. However, it reverted again to Reynold Bruce, who was besieged by some Welsh barons, in 1220; but before it could be taken Henry the Third raised the siege. In 1256, we find it in the possession of Rhŷs Fychan, whom Llewelyn ap Gruffydd defeated and forced out of Buallt, and afterwards conferred the same on Meredith ap Rhŷs, but he was soon dispossessed of it by Roger Mortimer, with whom it continued till 1260, when Llewelyn retook it without opposition, and found within a plentiful magazine. Of the town and castle nothing more is mentioned, till the unfortunate event which put a period to the independence of the Welsh and their royal line of princes, occasioned by the death of Llewelyn ap Gruffydd, who was basely betrayed by the inhabitants of Buallt on Wednesday, December 11th, 1282. The minute circumstances preceding and following this great event are no where recorded, except in the following account preserved by tradition among the inhabitants of this place. Llewelyn posted his army on a hill near Llechryd, a village below Buallt, on the south side of the Wye. On the north side of the river, two miles below Buallt, the prince had a house called Aberedwy, to which he came for the purpose of conferring with some chieftains of the country. During his stay there he was alarmed by the approach of some English troops, who probably had intelligence of his situation. The prince, to extricate himself from the danger that threatened, caused his horse's shoes to be reversed to deceive his pursuers, as the snow was on the ground; but this circumstance was made known to the enemy through the treachery of the smith, and they followed so closely that Llewelyn had but just time to pass the drawbridge at Buallt, which being drawn up secured his retreat. In the meantime, the English troops posted at Aberedwy, had information of a ford a little lower down called Cefn-Twm-bach, which they crossed, and by that means came between Llewelyn and his army stationed at Llechryd. The only means of safety now offered was to secrete himself; but the enemy was so diligent in the pursuit, that the Welsh prince was found in a narrow dingle, in which he had concealed himself, three miles north of Buallt, and about five miles from his army; which place from this event was called Cwm Llewelyn. After Llewelyn was killed, they cut off his head, and buried his body in a field called Casan, about two miles from Buallt; and at some subsequent period, a farm-house was erected over his grave, which goes by the name of Cefnybedd. The parish is called Llanfair-ym-Mhuallt, i. e. "The church of Saint Mary in Buallt." In 1691 the town was destroyed by fire, the loss being estimated at more than £12,000. The church has been of late years rebuilt: in 1811 there were 19 acres of glebe land and half an acre of garden ground, but no parsonage-house.

A little below Buallt are the remains of Aberedwy castle, having only a stone wall, now overgrown with ivy, but formerly, as just mentioned, one of the residences of Llewelyn the Great.

Two miles further is Cefn-y-Bedd, in Casan field, also before noticed, and contiguous is Llechryd, with its ancient castle, now a modern house, surrounded by a moat.

About one mile north-west of Buallt are some saline springs, called Park Wells; and about 6 miles from Garth, near Buallt, is the village of Llanwrtyd, properly Llan-wrth-y-Rhŷd, i. e. "the church opposite to the ford," pleasantly situated upon the banks of the river Irvon, where the scenery is particularly romantic and picturesque. In this parish is Llanwrtyd well: it was first particularly noticed near two hundred years ago by a clergyman, who, it is said, wrote a tract on its virtues, but at present the publication is not to be found. The situation is between two hills, in a romantic vale, through which the river Irvon meanders, with a picturesque view of hanging woods, impending rocks, contrasted with rich land and barren hills. About 300 yards from Dol-y-Coed is this remarkable spring, called in Welsh Y Ffynon Drewllyd, or fœtid well, which smells strongly of sulphur, and changes silver almost instantaneously into a gold colour. This well was opened in 1774, to investigate its course, and after removing the stones and rubbish which covered its channel, some black turf 12 inches thick, and a stiff clay of a very dark colour, mixed with marl, were discovered, and under the latter a light gravel. The water does not spring from under the gravel, as was at first supposed, but flows perpendicularly through a bog or morass: it is very transparent, and never loses its smell or taste, nor is it ever impregnated with rain water even in the wettest season. As soon as it is put into a glass it sparkles, and the air-bubbles may be seen to rise gradually until they are disseminated through the whole, and remain so for hours. The water is very light and perfectly soft, and when the hands and face are washed in it, the same sensation is felt as when soap and common water are used. It dissolves soap immediately, also intimately unites with it, and sits easy on the stomach, but passes quickly through the kidnies. The efficacy of the wells have been proved in the following cases: 1. An excellent diuretic. 2. Serviceable after intoxication. 3. Nephitic complaints, or where a stone is not confirmed. 4. Against lowness of spirits. 5. Scorbutic eruptions, &c. The wells are much frequented during the summer season; and hot and cold baths, with dressing rooms attached, and other conveniences, have been lately erected by the proprietors of the land, which does them much honour.

Returning to Buallt, and proceeding in a southerly direction, at the distance of about eleven miles, the traveller passes through Brecon, three miles south-west of which is Llyn Savathan, generally called Llangors Pwll or Brecknock Mere, called (by Giraldus) Clamosum,

Clamosum, from the terrible noise it makes, like thunder, upon the breaking of the ice in winter. This lake is two miles broad and 13 fathoms deep. In this mere have been found otters, eels, pike, and perch in great numbers, also trout from the Lleweney. Llyn Savathan is described by Giraldus as surrounded by houses, with gardens, corn fields, and orchards. Just before the Normans ravaged this country its waters assumed a miraculous green colour, though at other times red, which Leland ascribes to the coming in of the Lleweny after rain, which enters this lake, but is vulgarly said to retain its own colour, and, as it were, disdaining to mix its waters, carrying away neither more nor less than it brought in. On the river Lleweny Ptolemy places Lovintium, of which there are no remains at present, if there ever were any.—Marianus, related to the venerable Bede, wrote a chronicle, which is much esteemed. He died in 1086, aged 58 years, and he calls this place Bricenaic Mere, and says it was reduced by Edelfleda in 913; but by the reduction it is supposed he means Blaen Lleveny castle, in the neighbourhood, which appears to have been the chief fortress in this barony. A good view of the lake may be had from a hill above Buallt. The country people have a singular tradition of a large city having been swallowed up by an earthquake where the lake now is; but this is certainly a fable, for no history informs us of an earthquake in these parts. If such a fact had been related of a lake in Naples or Sicily, or any other country subject to such calamities, it might indeed appear credible; but stories of this nature are not confined to Llyn Savathan, for they tell you the same of many other lakes in Wales, as Pwlh-Kynffig in Glamorganshire, Llyn-Lhan-Lhwch in Carmarthenshire, Y-Llyngwyn in Radnorshire, Llyn-Deckwyn-Ucha in Merionethshire, and Lhyncllys between Llanymynech and Oswestry; also of a lake near Welsh Pool, in Montgomeryshire; and perhaps all have an equal claim to our credibility.

About eleven miles west of Brecknock is Trefcastle, *i. e.* "the Township of the Castle," a miserable village, enclosed by wild mountains, at the upper vale of the Wsg, which soon expands itself, after passing the groves of Devenog and Luch yn Tyron. Trecastle was formerly a large borough and market town, but is now fallen into decay, still it shews the ruins of a castle; but, according to Mr. Jones, the early history of Trecastle is involved in impenetrable darkness. On the top of a hill near this place was dug up a stone, containing an inscription, which shews it to have been a military station. The village is now chiefly distinguished for a good inn, and a number of gentlemen's seats in the neighbourhood. Returning to the road, at the distance of thirteen miles from Brecon, we pass through the village of Llansaintfred, situate on the banks of the river Usk, respecting which place Camden says—"At Pentre Yskythrog, in Lhan Saint Fferêd parish, there is a stone pillar erected in the highway,

highway, about six feet high, but somewhat of a depressed cylinder form, with a mutilated inscription thereon, which is of a later date than the Romans, and it is only a monument of some person buried there, containing no more than his own name and his father's—*N—— filius Victorini.*" This stone is still to be seen on the left-hand side of the road to Brecknock.—The Rev. Thomas Vaughan, noticed by Mr. Wood in his *Athenæ*, was a native and rector of this parish; and his brother, Henry Vaughan, M. D. author of the *Olor Iscanus* and other poems, was buried in this church-yard.

Cerrig-Howell, or Crick-Howel, or Crûg Hywel, pleasantly situated on the river Usk, takes its name from an old British fortress called Crûg Hywel, *i. e.* "Howell's Mount," which is seated on a projecting knoll of the Breannog mountain. The town is in the direct road from London to Milford Haven, and is supposed to have been built in the time of Howel Dda, who flourished about the year 940. The river here abounds with excellent fish; and the neighbouring hills with game; it is also in high repute for goat's whey, and much resorted to by valetudinarians. Of the castle the remains are very few, yet its original plan may be easily traced, and much of its ancient architecture found in the neighbouring cottages, whose stones are evidently purloined from the old castle, which forms upon the whole an interesting ruin. The keep appears to have been a very secure building, seated upon a lofty artificial elevation, and displaying the foundation, a thick substantial wall. By whom this fortress was erected is uncertain, but it was last fortified by Sir John Pauncefote, under a royal commission from King Henry the Fourth, to resist the incursions of Owen Glyndwr. It probably fell a sacrifice to the fury of that bold chieftain, after he had demolished the castle of Abergavenny: it was certainly a ruin in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, as is certified in an ancient survey of the manor. At the west end of the town is an old embattled gateway, called Porth-mawr: it was the entrance to the old castellated mansion called Cwrt y Carw, *i. e.* "the Stag's Court," belonging to a branch of the Herbert family, which settled in this parish about the reign of Edward the Fourth. The present proprietor has lately erected a mansion on the premises. The church, which is dedicated to Saint Edmund the king and martyr, is distinguished by having the only spire in the county of Brecknock. In the chancel of the church are two old monuments of the Pauncefote family, and a more modern one in alabaster of Sir John Herbert, Knight. It had anciently a chapel of ease, called Llan Fair, or St. Mary's Church, about a mile distant, on the Brecknock road. The name still remains, but the last ruins of the building have within these few years been removed, to make room for a barn. Giraldus Cambrensis tells us, that he was cited to appear in this chapel, before the priors of Llanthoni and Brecknock, to answer to charges brought against him by the Archbishop of Canterbury in the reign of King Henry the Second.

Near

Near Crickhowel is the pleasant village of Llangattoc or Llangattwg, the church of which is dedicated to Saint Cadog, who lived about the middle of the fifth century. It is an extensive parish, separated from Crickhowel by a stone bridge of fourteen arches. In the lime-stone vein above the village is a large cavern, called Eglwys Faen, or "the Rock Church." Upon the Carno mountain, in this parish, a severe battle was fought between Roderic Molwynog Prince of North Wales, and Ethelbald King of Mercia, in the year 728: two great heaps of stones, or Carnau, are still remaining on the spot: one of these was opened by the Rev. Henry Thomas Payne, of Llanbedr, in 1806, in which a Cistfaen was discovered, curiously constructed, but no deposit; the other appeared to have been previously opened.

Three miles north-west is Trc'r Twr, *i. e.* "the Township of the Tower," a neat town, the chapel of which is dedicated to Saint John the Evangelist. Mr. Gough's description of the town, as "a large well-built town among wood," is erroneous, it being in fact wholly destitute of wood, except in the hedgerows. The ivy-mantled ruins of the castle are seen on the right hand of the road to Brecknock. "The fair place of Henry Vehan, Esq." mentioned by Leland, is still in part standing, but too much dismantled to deserve that name.

Llan-aml-Llech, or "The Church on many Stones," dedicated to Saint Peter, is thought to take its name from the churchyard abounding with flat stones; and upon a hillock called Mannest, between it and Llan-gasty Tal-y-Llyn, is the monument described by Bishop Gibson under the name of "Ty-Ilhtud, or Saint Iltut's Hermitage." It is, in fact, one of those ancient relics called a Cistvaen, or stone chest, differing in nothing but the name from the Cromlech. The characters noticed by the bishop (consisting of nine crosses), are inscribed upon the upright supporting stones within the hollow, but not in the exact order he has given them, being scattered without any apparent reference to each other. That Saint Illtyd had an hermitage here is recorded by Giraldus Cambrensis, and several neighbouring places still bear his name, as Maen Illtyd, Tir Illtyd, Ffynnon Illtyd. It is not improbable that the mortified habits of the Saint might have induced him to make his bed within the hollow of a cistvaen, but he could not have sat upright in it. A Maen Hîr, or upright stone, formerly stood near the cistvaen, but it has been removed above a century ago, and employed in building.

Battle is a small town, situated on the banks of the river Yscyr. The tradition of the country is, that this parish took its name from a battle, in which Rhŷs ap Tewdwr, Prince of South Wales, was defeated and slain by Robert Fitzhamon, aided by Iestyn ab Gwrgant, Lord of Glamorgan; in confirmation of which the inhabitants point out a well called Ffynnon Pen Syr Rhŷs, or "The Well of the Head of Sir Rhŷs." The battle took place previous to the invasion of

Brecknock

Brecknock by Bernard de Newmarch, who therefore could not have influenced the name. The greater probability is, that the parish has been so called from the chapel, *quasi* Chapel y Battle, *i. e.* "Capella de Batel," given it by the prior and monks of Brecknock, in honour of their mother church, St. Martin de Battle, in the county of Sussex, and constituted a cell by Bernard de Newmarch, its founder.

In the parish of Cathedine, or Tir-y-caeth-Adyn, the church of which is dedicated to Saint Michael, formerly stood the castle and borough of Blaen-Llyfni, which, according to Mr. Jones, who wrote the history of this county, is a borough by prescription. The name implies *The Land of the Wretched Captive.* Leland speaks of the "veri fair Castel now dekaying," and adds that "by was a Borrow Towne:" but it appears that the borough was not at Cathedine, but at Llan Gors, nevertheless called the borough of Blaen Llyfni.

In the vicinity of Defynoc or Tréf Dyfnog, *i. e.* "The Village of St. Dyfnog," to whom the church is dedicated, is the great forest, containing about 20,000 acres of land, within five different parishes, appertaining to the lordship of Brecknock. Under the ancient Lord Marchers, the forest laws were enforced here with the greatest severity. King Richard the Second, in the first year of his reign, granted to the tenants, resiants, and inhabitants of this tract, free liberty and passage through the same, with water and pasturage for their beasts through the same, on payment to his said highness one penny, after the rate and computation of Cyfrif, known by usage of the said forest; which grant was afterwards confirmed by *Inspeximus* of King Henry VIII. After the attainder of the Duke of Buckingham, the said King granted this part of his possessions to Sir Thomas Seymour, afterwards Lord Seymour of Sudley, and Lord High Admiral. In the 9th of Queen Elizabeth it was granted in lease for 21 years to William Jones, paying annually to the crown £20. 6s. 8d. In the 10th George I. a similar lease was granted William Morgan, of Tredegar, and was afterwards continued upon the same terms to his representatives; but eventually the tract was taken into the hands of the Commissioners of the Crown Lands.

Dinas Castle stood upon a pointed knoll in the forest hamlet of Talgarth. It was probably first erected by the Barons Marchers of the country, to curb the bloody incursions of the natives, who for a long time continued to possess strongholds in the narrow vales. From Leland we learn that the fabric was destroyed by the natives, that it might not be occupied by the favourers of Owain Glyndwr.

In the parish of Llanfilo, on an eminence (westward of the church, which is dedicated to St. Milburg) called Allt Filo, are the vestiges of a British encampment of great extent.

Llanelly, the church of which is dedicated to Saint Ellyw, stands upon a hill commanding a beautiful view of Abergavenny and the surrounding country. In the churchyard are some venerable yew-trees;

trees; the river Clydach, rapidly descending from the mountains through a deep and rocky channel, and broken into numerous cascades, bisects the parish; the fall of Pwll-y Cwn, or "the Dog's Pool, is of considerable height, and has peculiar beauties. In this Cwm are the Clydach ironworks, which are carried on by Messrs. Frere and Co. who are supplied with the requisite materials from the adjoining mountain, by means of an inclined-plane railway. There is an old British fortress on a hill above the works, on the west of the Clydach.

Llan-Frynach has its church dedicated to Saint Brynach, a saint and renowned British Abbot, who flourished in the fifth century. A Roman bath was discovered upon Pen-y-Pentre farm in this parish, in the year 1783: it is now entirely demolished. Several Roman coins have also at different times been discovered here.

Llangammarch parish, the church of which is dedicated to Saint Cammarch, is celebrated for having given birth to James Howell, the voluminous writer and eccentric wanderer. In 1619 he left England, and visited Holland, Flanders, France, Spain, and Italy. He published Dodona's Grove, which went through many editions, and was well received. At the restoration of Charles the Second he was made the first Historiographer Royal in England, which office he enjoyed till his death in 1666. The pious and learned Theophilus Evans was also born in this parish. According to tradition there was formerly a chapel-of-ease here, called Llwyn-y-Fynwent: there are also visible remains of ancient fortifications at a place called Caerau.

About 80 yards below the church of Llanynys, on the river Irvon, stood the bridge, mentioned in history, near to which Llewelyn ap Gruffydd, the last prince of Wales, was slain. The Reverend Charles Price, in the year 1811, says, "I have seen part of the timbers of this bridge in the bank of the river." To the south of the church is a steep slope covered with wood of at least a mile high, near the summit of which are flat places cut by art, seemingly for encampments or ambushes, from which directly down to the bridge above-mentioned, there are roads or passes running straight down the slope, at nearly equal distances from each other: they are about 300 yards asunder, and the principal one leads direct to the bridge.

In the parish of Trallong is an old intrenchment on the eastern part, which confronts another on the south-east, in the parish of Llan-Spyddyd, both called Twyn y Gaer, about a mile and a half distant from each other.—There is a field in this parish, where (tradition says) the renowned Owain Iolo Goch is buried; it bears the name to this very day. There is a stone in the church of Llan-Spydydd, where the tradition of the country informs us Brychan Brecheiniog was buried, but which Mr. Jones supposes commemorates the interment of his father Aulach. Milo Earl of Hereford,

who

who was unfortunately killed by an arrow by one of his knights in hunting, A.D. 1144, granted the manor and advowson to the priors and monks of Malvern.

The church of Cantref, dedicated to St. Mary, is romantically situate upon an eminence near the river Cynrig; this benefice was anciently appendant to the great lordship of Brecknock, but having fallen to the Crown by the attainder of the Duke of Buckingham, it was afterwards granted to William Awbrey, D. C. L. a civilian of considerable eminence in the reign of Queen Elizabeth; from thence it passed by marriage to the Powells of Swansea, in whose family it now remains. Within this parish are the lofty mountains called the Brecknock Beacons, the principal of which is denominated Cader Arthur, or "Arthur's Chair." Sir Richard Colt Hoare has very properly corrected the error of there being 'a well with trout in it' upon its summit, which does not exist. It is now commonly called Pen y Fân, or, by way of eminence, The Van, and is the highest mountain in South Wales.

In the parish of Llan-Afan-fechan, or "the Small Church of Saint Afan," to whom the church is dedicated, and which is situated on the banks of the river Irfon, is a tremendous precipice at a place called Cwm Graig ddu, or "the Vale of the Black Rock."

Llan-Ddetty has its church dedicated to St. Tetta. This parish extends from the south bank of the river Usk to the borders of the county of Glamorgan, and is agreeably diversified with hill and dale. The benefice was anciently and successively holden in patronage by the noble families of de Breos, Mortimer, and Stafford Duke of Buckingham, as parcel of the great lordship of Pen Celli, but merging to the Crown by the attainder of the Duke of Buckingham, in the reign of King Henry the Eighth, it was granted, with the manor of Wenallt, in this parish, to one of the Vaughans of Bredwardine, and has since passed by sale, through the families of Morgan and Jones, into that of Gwynne of Buckland, with whom it now remains. The Roman road from Caerphilly to Brecknock traverses the whole length of this parish, and on cutting the Brecknock canal a small sacrificial instrument was discovered, which was obtained by the Rev. Henry Thomas Payne, of Llan-bedr; and in passing through a wet boggy field here, several trees were dug up four or five feet below the surface, perfectly black, and of a very hard consistency.

Llan-Ddew or Llan-Ddewi, the church of which is dedicated to Saint David, is situate on the banks of the river Honddu. The Bishops of Saint David's had formerly a castellated mansion here, which Leland says was in his time "an onsemeli ruine:" he then adds, that the "Archdiacon of Brekenok hath a house even there, and that is also fallen down for the more part; Giraldus makith mention of this house." During the time of the Commonwealth the manor of Llan-Ddew was sold by parliament to David Morgan, Esq. but at the Restoration

Restoration it was recovered by the see. The castle is demolished. Here was the residence of the celebrated Giraldus Cambrensis. "Of this parish," says Mr. Jones, "I will hazard a conjecture, though I will not assert it as an historical fact, that the present parish anciently formed part of Saint David's, or Plwyf Ddewi, in the county of Brecknock; that there was a chapel of ease within the latter, in which the archdeacon officiated, for which he had the tithes, and is ever since the patron of the living; and to this day there is a prevailing opinion among many of the common people, that the College, being within the circuit of the parish of Saint David's, though certainly extra-parochial, constitutes a parcel of the parish of Llan Ddewi; that the poor who gain a settlement within the precinct of the college are parishioners of Llan Ddewi, and the poor who die in the former place should be buried in the cemetery of the mother church."

Maes-Mynys, probably Maes-am-ynys, i.e. "the plain which surrounds the rising ground," hath its church dedicated to Saint David. This parish is situate on the banks of the rivers Irvon and Dihonw. There formerly stood, about a quarter of a mile east of the church, a stone set on end, about 7½ feet high and 3 feet square, called Maen Ddewi, or David's stone: it stood on a small eminence close by a large wood, called Gilfach Dedwydd, or "the blissful retreat." This stone was of a kind not to be found in the neighbourhood, and was, doubtless, conveyed from afar; some suppose it to be composed of small white pebbles and a certain cement (probably the mill-stone or pudding stone). It appears to have been a druidical altar, and many droll stories are told concerning it. It was blasted to pieces by gunpowder, about twenty years ago, by the owner of the land.

Patrishow.—The church of this parish (dedicated to Saint Ishaw or Ishow) stands upon a knoll or rising ground above a small stream, called Nant-Mair, or "Mary's Brook." St. Ishow's well is at the bottom of the hill, walled on three sides, but open in the front, and covered: in the walls were recesses, which were, most probably, intended to receive the presents made by pious votaries. Herewald, Bishop of Llandaff, consecrated a church here in the eleventh century, when it was called Merthur Issui, evidently a corruption of Merthyr Ishow, i.e. "Ishow the Martyr;" but the present building is not older than the fifteenth century. The present name of the parish seems to be a corruption of Parthawr-Ishow, i.e. "the region or country of Ishow. In the church is a beautiful rood-loft and screen, carved in Irish oak, which, from the wyverns and union of the two roses appearing among the embellishments, is conceived to have been erected in the reign of Henry the Seventh. The font, hollowed out of a single stone, is capacious and of great antiquity, as appears from the name of Gynhyllyn inscribed upon the rim, in rude characters. This Gynhyllyn or Cynhyllyn was a British lord of Ystrad Wy about the reign of King Henry the First, and permitted to retain his property

property after the conquest of the county by Bernard de Newmarch. The bridge of Pont yr Escob, or "The Bishop's Bridge," noticed by Sir Richard Hoare in his elegant Illustrations (vol. 1, p. 94), crosses the Grwyney Faror, and connects this parish with the opposite one of Cwmyog and the forest of Moyle, in the county of Monmouth.

Pen Derin, or Pen y Daren, "the head of the rock," hath its church dedicated to Saint Cynog. A great part of Hir Waun Wrgan, where the battle was fought between Iestyn ap Gwrgan and Rhŷs ap Tewdwr, in which the latter was defeated, is situate within this parish: it is an extensive boggy common, extending from two to three miles east and west; and not only this plain but almost the whole of Pen y Daren still bear memorials of this conflict. The little brook called Sŷch Rhŷd, or "Dry Ford," which falls into the united streams of the Melltè and Hepstè, at the foot of Craig y Dinas, here divides the counties of Brecknock and Glamorgan. The ironworks raised by the Hir Waun Company are under a lease granted by the Marquis of Bute, at an annual rent, and the lessees pay no gallage, as is frequently the case in this country.

Rhôs Fferreg, i.e. "the marsh of Ferreg," is in the parish of Llanfihangel Bryn Pâp Ievan. In this hamlet, near Parc Wood, are three mineral springs, which are much resorted to in the summer season. Ferreg or Ferlex, a territory noticed in the ancient Welsh histories, was that extent of country which lies between the rivers Wye and Severn, and was governed by its own reguli, who also possessed a considerable portion of Brycheiniog or Brecknockshire, as it is now named. Rhôs Fferreg, therefore, though situate on the opposite side of the Wye, from Fferreg or Ferlex properly so called, had in all probability its name from hence; and is now perhaps the only spot which records that ancient name. This was one of the mansions of Elystan Glodrydd, the stock of one of the five Royal tribes of Wales, and is now, or recently was, the property of one of his lineal descendants.

Faenor, or Y Faenor Wen, hath its church dedicated to Saint Gwenfrewi, and is situate close to the lesser Tâf, but there is no village or even a single house adjoining. There are several carneddau in this parish. The mineral spring on Nantgwyn farm is almost disused. About half-a-mile from the church is a remarkable wood bridge over the Tâf; and at a little distance above is an extensive cavern, called Ogof Rhŷd Sŷch, or "the dry cavern."—The village of Coed y Cymer has been raised in consequence of the ironworks at Merthyr Tydfil, and is built on a common without any regard to regularity. The stupendous rocks, called Graig-Fawr and Pen-Moel-Allt command particular attention.

Llanfeugan hath its church dedicated to Saint Feugan or Meugan, whose history is unknown. The parish lies along the banks of the river Usk: this benefice was anciently in the patronage of the Lords Marchers

Marchers of the castle of Pencelli. Upon the attainder of the Duke of Buckingham, in the reign of Henry the Eighth, it merged in the crown: it was afterwards granted to the Aubrey family, from whence it passed into that of Kemeys, and is now vested in J. Kemeys Tynte, Esq. of Haswell Court, in the county of Somerset, and of Cefn Mable, in the county of Glamorgan. The church is pleasantly situated on the declivity of a hill, on the south side of the Usk. There is no certainty when or by whom the castle of Pencelli was erected, and there is hardly a vestige of it now remaining: some of the walls and rooms of the old mansion of the Herberts, upon the spot where it stood, still continue, but great additions and alterations have from time to time been made, and it is now a farmer's dwelling. The manor of Pencelli was anciently one great lordship; which, during the reigns of Edward the First or Edward the Second, was divided into English and Welsh Pencelli: it has since been divided into five lordships, viz. Pencelli Castle and the manor of that name, English Pencelli, Pencelli Orgwm, Wenallt, and Welsh Pencelli, to which the contiguous lordship of Scethrog has lately been added.

Glyn Collwyn, or "The Glen of the Hazel Wood," is in this parish; it is situate close upon the brook Carfannell, which runs the whole length of the valley, and falls into the river Usk below Tâl y Bont. A carn within this hamlet was opened some years ago by a person called Twm-Bâch or Little Tom, who came thither from North Wales, induced, as it is said, by some Welsh verses which he had met with, to search for treasure within it, when a large cist, containing various antiquities, were discovered; but unfortunately none of them were preserved, as the finder sold them to an itinerant jew.

Llan-Afan-Fawr, or "The Great Church of St. Afan," to whom the church is dedicated. On a tomb-stone in the churchyard is engraven, in large Saxon letters, "Hic jacet Sanctus Avanus Episcopus."—The vicarage-house is pleasantly situated on the banks of the Chewefri, about a quarter of a mile below the church. The district of Llŷs-Dinam is now called a hamlet of Llan-Afan-Fawr, yet it is to many purposes a separate and distinct parish, maintains its own poor, appoints its own officers, and repairs its own highways. Since the church has fallen into ruins, it pays a contribntion of the sixth of the assessments towards the repair of Llan-Afan church, and one-third to Llanfihangel Brynn Pâb Ievan, the latter being the usual place of worship to which the inhabitants resort; but there is great reason to believe that this payment was at first voluntary, though prescription has now established it and made it compulsory. Besides the decay of the church, Llŷs-Dinam has undergone several other vicissitudes in the course of time, which have probably much changed the face of the country, as well as the population, the wealth, employments, habits, and manners of the inhabitants. In the old

surveys

surveys of the manor of Buallt, and in ancient presentments, the weavers of Dinam are considered as a body corporate, and are assessed and pay their chief-rents to the lord separately from the neighbouring inhabitants. A tenement in this hamlet is called Penllŷs, i. e. "The High Court of Justice;" and the proprietors of this land also formerly were so named, as Ieuan Penllys, i. e. Evan of the High Court," or it may with equal propriety be translated "Evan, the Head of the Court or Chief Justice,"; so that here the law was probably administered for the government of the manufacturers, under regulations of their own, and subject to charters of their own adoption, or by grants from the lords under whose protection they resided; but the shuttle has been exchanged for the mattock, and the seat of justice is now perhaps converted into a beast-house.—*Jones's History of Brecknock, vol. 2. part* 1, *p.* 242.

Llanfihangel-Cwm-Dû.—In very ancient documents this parish was called Llanfihangel Tref y Caerau, or "Michael's Church apud Castra," and was granted to the church of Llandaff by a British prince named Tydor, in the time of Gurvan, the tenth bishop of that see, and afterwards confirmed to his successor Libian, who died in 929. The Rev. Thomas Payne, of Llanbedr, reflecting with great judgment upon this name, was encouraged to make researches, many years ago, and discovered what he conceives to be decidedly the site of a Roman station, at a place called Pentre Gaer, and in which opinion he is supported, as well by local tradition, that it was anciently a great town, as by the innumerable fragments of bricks, pottery, and cement, which are not only thickly strewed upon the surface, but intimately blended with the soil. This worthy gentleman had a regular plan made of this station by an ingenious surveyor, and which is carefully recorded in Mr. Jones's *History of the County of Brecknock*, a work of extraordinary merit, and that does honour to the principality. In a field about a quarter of a mile from the encampment to the south-east is a stone, noticed by the Hon. Daines Barrington to the Society of Antiquaries of London, on the 18th Nov. 1773, upon the communication of Mr. Maskelyne: it stood at a short distance from the Roman road to Gaer, and now lies under a hedge. Mr. Maskelyne, however, did not give the inscription accurately. The name of this parish is commonly, but it is thought erroneously, written Cwm Dû, *i. e.* "the Black Vale," which is by no means applicable to the appearance of the country, which is more open and of a wider extent than any other parish in its neighbourhood. The indignation of the natives is considerable at what they deem a reproachful appellation, for they say, "the Black Vale is a nick-name; our's is a Fair Vale;" and so it is. Previously to the establishment of Brecknock as a county, in the reign of Henry the Eighth, it formed a part of the great Lordship Marcher of Ystrad-Wy. Talgarth, which lies to the north, from hence was called Ystrad-Wy-Uchaf, or "the Upper Ystrad-Wy,"

Ystrad-Wy," Cwm-dè was called Ystrad-Wy-Isaf, or " the Lower Ystrad-Wy;" and the inhabitants of Talgarth would naturally call the latter Cwm-dè, or " the South Vale," as it certainly was to them. In the middle of what may be properly called the valley of Cwm-dè runs the little river of Rhiangoll (Rhean Cell, *i. e.* " the Sheltered Stream,") over which there are three bridges, and one upon the turnpike road, called Pont y Brynn Hir. Near this is a well of clear water, called Ffynnon y Gwrlodau, but of no medicinal virtue, excepting in the idea of the vulgar.

Llan-Gynydr, or Llan Gynyd, hath its church dedicated to Saint Cynydr or Cynyd, who lived about the end of the fifth century. In early books of institution this is called Llan Gynyd Eglwys Yail, from a stream called Yail, passing by the church, and Llan Gwnyd Eglwys Vessey, or Llan Gynyd cum Eglwys Vessey, probably from an old chapel, the ruins of which were lately to be seen on the banks of the river Crawnant, about two miles distant from the village. Previous to the formation of the canal, where is a wharf, below the church, the Llan-Gynyd hills afforded the principal supply of lime for the consumption of the country; and indeed several persons still carry on a considerable trade from thence on horse's backs. At the extremity of this parish, towards the county of Glamorgan, are the Union or Rhymny Ironworks, carried on by Messrs. Crawshay and Co. under a lease from the Duke of Beaufort; the river Rhymny, which passes by them, separates the counties of Brecknock and Glamorgan. Tradition still points out the site of the ancient castle, near the road leading from the village of Llan-Gynyd to Brecknock, but of its history we are ignorant; and it is thought to have been nothing more than a lodge for a forester or woodward, belonging to the Lords of Tre'r-Twr Castle. Upon the hills in this parish are three or four carneddau.

" Upon a cross in the highway at Faenor is a large stone pillar, the inscription whereof, although it be entirely preserved, is to me," says Camden, " unintelligible, for I dare not rely on a slight conjecture I had at first view of it, that it might be read, ' In nomine Domini Jesu Christi Tilus;' Tilaus or Teilaw being an eminent saint, to whom many churches in Wales are consecrated."

GLAMORGANSHIRE.

GLAMORGANSHIRE,

CALLED by the Britons Morganwg Gwlâd, and Gwlâd-Vorganwg, was so called (as some imagine) from Morgan, a prince, or, others suppose, from an abbey of that name; but, says Camden, "if I should deduce it from the British Môr, which signifies the sea, I know not for certain whether I should deviate from the truth." In the time of the Romans this country was part of the district inhabited by the Silures, and had several Roman stations; as Boverton, a few miles south of Cowbridge, which is supposed to be the Bovium of Antoninus, Neath to be his Nidum, and Llacharn to have been his Leucarum. The principal rivers are the Tâf, the Nedd, the Tawy, the Osmore, and the Rumney; the least considerable streams are the Elay, Eweny, Melta, Trawgath, and Turch, all of which produce an abundance of fish, particularly salmon, sewin, and trout, of very fine flavour.

SWANSEA,

or Eglwys-Fair-Aber-Tawy, is a pleasant well-built town on the river Tawy, and situate near the centre of a most beautiful bay, on an angle between two hills, which defend it from the north-west to the north-east, while the southerly winds blowing over a vast expanse of sea, render the air mild. The town has a very handsome appearance from the road approaching to it, being built on a semicircular rising bank near the mouth of the Tawy; it is also populous, with good houses, wide streets, and a considerable trade: the market house, which is very commodious, is said to be covered with the lead from Saint David's Cathedral, given by Cromwell to a gentleman of this town. The old mansion house of the lord of the manor, built round a quadrangle, is now converted into a warehouse and stables, having over the gate the arms of William Earl of Pembroke in the time of Henry the Eighth, quartering those of Sir H. Herbert, Lord of Swansea. Here was an hospital, founded by Bishop Gower in 1352, and a free school built and endowed by Hugh Gore, Bishop of Waterford and Lismore, in Ireland, in the year 1684, and to which the corporation have of late years added twenty guineas per annum, making altogether an endowment of £60 per annum. The castle was probably built by Henry Earl of Warwick in the year 1113, when he fortified the town, and was burnt down by Rhŷs ap Gruffydd, Prince of South Wales: a high tower, consisting principally of a curious light parapet upon gothic arches, supporting a few massy walls, is now used for a gaol and workhouse. The church is a modern well-built edifice, dedicated to Saint Mary, consisting of a nave and two aisles, separated

separated from the centre by eight pillars, four on each side, being in length 72 feet by 54 feet wide; the whole is neatly paved, and has a gallery and organ. Some remains of the old church, which fell in 1739, are still visible north-east of the yard. Swansea at this period enjoys many advantages not to be found in any other part of Wales. Here the tide ebbs and flows a considerable way over a flat sandy shore, and up the river Tawy, which runs through the town, and is navigable for vessels of considerable burthen for about two miles. This place has also within these thirty years become a considerable market town, particularly in copper, coals, lime, iron, brass, spelter, tin, and earthenware, which employ upwards of 1900 sail of vessels annually; the quantity of coals that are on an average exported yearly amounts to upwards of 114,000 chaldrons. Exclusively of its intercourse with London, Bristol, Cornwall, and Ireland, it has a considerable share of foreign trade to the Baltic and to the West Indies, from which it appears that few places in this kingdom have made so great and rapid an increase in trade as Swansea within a few years. In 1791 a bill passed, empowering the Corporation to repair and enlarge the harbour of Swansea by turning the river through the western channel, by which the entrance into the harbour has been rendered shorter, safer, and deeper. The corporation has likewise expended a considerable sum of money in enlarging and making the bathing-house commodious for company resorting annually to Swansea for the benefit of sea-bathing, which at present affords every thing necessary to comfort or to amuse the stranger. North of Swansea is the canal, on which there are no less than thirty-six locks in the space of sixteen miles, from an elevation of 372 feet, and several aqueducts. Adjoining are several smelting copper works, the iron forge, brass and tin works, a fine copper rolling mill, iron furnaces and foundry, and a most stupendous steam-engine at Llandwr, which cost the proprietors upwards of £5000 to complete. This machine throws up from a vast depth 100 gallons of water every stroke, which is repeated twelve times in a minute, making 72,000 gallons an hour.

Swansea is situate in that part of Glamorgan called Gower, which was conquered about the year 1100 by Henry de Beaumont, Earl of Warwick, and over which the Duke of Beaufort now claims a seigniory and particular jurisdiction. The south-west part of Gower is inhabited by the successors of a colony of Flemings, who neither talk nor understand the Welsh language, and are distinguished by their dialect and provincial dress; they seldom, if ever, intermarry with their neighbours on the north-west side of Gower, the inhabitants of which universally speak Welsh. A peculiar kind of provincial article of dress is worn in Gower, called the Gower Whittle, manufactured from fine wool, and then dyed scarlet: it is nearly square, about a yard each way; at the bottom is a handsome fringe, or (in the provincial

vincial term) Ddrum; the whittle is thrown across the shoulders, and fastened before with a pin or brooch, but the old provincial mode of fastening was with the prickle of a black-thorn, which being of itself of a tough nature, and being dried, is sufficiently strong to penetrate the whittle. Some of the old women retain it to this day. The whittle is also worn in the neighbourhood of Fishguard, in the county of Pembroke, where there is a colony of the same people (Flemings). When the French landed there a few years ago, the women ran down to the sea shore with these whittles on, which much terrified the Frenchmen, who took them at a distance for a corps of soldiers. The whole of the neighbourhood of Swansea is filled with extensive mines of coal, iron, and lime-stone.

In a conspicuous place about three miles from Swansea, on the Tawy, is Morris-Town, a newly-erected village, and on the summit of a steep hill, is the castle, a quadrangular building, which owes its origin to Mr. Morris, a proprietor of the leading works in this place, and is one of the best houses in the county.

Oystermouth hath its church dedicated to All Saints, and there is a castle, which is a fine ruin, on the coast, about five miles north of Swansea, near the promontory of Mumbles Head, which, terminating in high hills, and stretching out far into the bay, affords a safe anchorage to ships passing up and down the channel. The castle is situated on an eminence, having its principal walls but little injured, and most of the apartments may yet be easily distinguished; the general figure is polygonal, the ramparts lofty, but not flanked with towers, except just at the entrance. This building is ascribed to the Earl of Warwick in the reign of Henry the First; the gateway is nearly perfect, and also a staircase leading to a terrace: there are several dungeons within the castle, and in one of them is a circular stone pillar, into which each visitor sticks a pin, according to an old custom.

About eight miles from Oystermouth Castle is Penrice or Pen-Rhŷs, a seaport seated on the Bristol channel; it has a good harbour for ships, and carries on a small trade of exports and imports for country purposes. Its ancient castle has been a superb edifice, well defended with bastions and turrets, as appear conspicuous by considerable ruins. It is said to have been built soon after the Norman conquest. Sir Hugh Mansell, Knt. married Isabella, sister and sole heiress of Sir John Penrice, Knt. Lord of Oxwich and other large territories in this county. Very near the village is an old intrenchment; and in the village (formerly a town) stands the ancient market-place, where the pedlars and hawkers expose their respective goods for sale on market days. The church (dedicated to Saint Andrew) is a remarkably neat one, standing close to the village, and at a distance appears a pleasing object, particularly from the grounds at Penrice Castle. The tower of the church has been raised, and otherwise

otherwise much improved, at the expense of Mr. Talbot. The house called the Sanctuary, at a little distance from the village, is said to have belonged to the manor of Millwood or St. John's, formerly the property of the Knights of Jerusalem.

About seven miles from Swansea is Neath, a market town, seated at the bottom of a valley, on the banks of the river Nedd: the streets are extremely irregular and narrow, and the houses, with few exceptions, ill-built and disagreeable, being generally covered with the smoke of the copper-works in the neighbourhood, a circumstance which must render it a very unhealthy place of residence, although its population exceeds 3000 inhabitants. A few ruins of the old castle of Neath, which was built by Richard de Grana-Villa, or Granvill (a Norman), Lord of Neath, in the reign of Henry the First, still remain, particularly one narrow piece of wall, which rises to a great height, and, being unsupported by any other part of the building, threatens the adjacent cottages with destruction on the first hurricane that may happen. In 1231, Llewelyn ap Iorwerth, being offended at Hugh Burgh's conduct on the Marches, burnt this castle to the ground. In the neighbourhood are some very extensive works for the manufacture of copper, which at no distant period promise to render Neath very different in point of appearance and respectability to what it is at present. The church of Neath is dedicated to Saint Thomas the Apostle. This place is the Nidum of Antoninus.

About one mile west of Neath, near the road, stands Neath Abbey, called by Leland "the fairest in all Wales." It is styled by the Welsh Abatty Glyn-Nedd, or "the Abbey of the Vale of Neath." This abbey was founded for Cistercians by Richard de Granaville (or Granville) and Constance his wife, who gave their chapel in Neath castle, likewise the tithes belonging to it, and a large tract of waste land, with other possessions, in the time of Henry the First, to endow the same, and it was dedicated to the Holy Trinity. About the time of its dissolution it contained only eight monks, and was valued at £132. 7s. 7d. per annum, but according to Speed £150. 4s. 9d. and was granted (33d Henry VIII.) to Sir Richard Williams. The ruins stand on the west side of the river, composed of rough stones with lancet windows, which form the north side of a quadrangle. The gates, hall, and gallery still remain, having in front of a contiguous room, in stone, the arms of England and of John of Gaunt, also those of Granville. In this Abbey the unfortunate Edward the Second sheltered himself till he was taken. At this time the remains are principally inhabited by some poor families. The ichnography of the old church, which was of elegant architecture and immense size, may be easily traced. A little north of Neath is a beautiful cataract falling nearly 150 feet perpendicular.

Four miles from Neath is Aberavon, a small village, seated on the banks of the Avon, having its church dedicated to Saint Mary; its castle is in ruins, and the village is chiefly noticed for a small haven.

Llychwyr, a poor village, situate on a river of the same name, has the outward walls of an ancient square castle, fortified by a treble trench; the castle was destroyed by Rhŷs ap Gruffydd in 1215, when he brought this county to his subjection. The ancient town and church are supposed to have stood nearer the river, on the other side of the castle. On the north-east of the town, at a place called Cefn-y-Bryn, is a vast stone, of twenty tons weight, commonly called Arthur's stone, said to have been fixed there by that hero. There is a tradition among the people about a well under this stone, which is said to ebb and flow with the sea; but Bishop Gibson very judiciously says he has his doubts respecting it.—There is a ford over the river to Llanelly, a small irregular town, containing an old seat of Sir John Stepney, which has long been deserted by the family. The church has a high square embattled tower, remarkable for being wider at its base than upwards, forming a cone. This district is very picturesque and fertile, having adjacent the base of Margam Hill, the property of Mr. Mansell, which is beautifully shaded with groves of majestic oaks. Contiguous is the mansion of Briton Ferry, which is surrounded by fertile lands and spacious plantations.

Bridgend is a populous town, situate on the river Ogmore; the town is divided into three parts, called Oldcastle, Newcastle, and Bridgend, the two first of which have remains of castles. The soil around is exceedingly fertile and well cultivated, and the town is in a considerable state of improvement, a woollen manufactory being set on foot there. The river Ogmore divides the town in two parts, which are joined by a good stone bridge.—Richard Price, D.D. was born near this place, and here his connexions are settled.

Two miles from Bridgend is the village of Coity, having its church dedicated to Saint Mary. Here are the remains of a castle built by Paganus de Tourberville in 1091. The Earl of Leicester, by marriage with Barbara, heiress of John Gamage, Esq. Lord of Coity, became possessed of this castle and his estates in Wales.—David Hopgyn, the poet, was born here; he was admitted into the Gorsedd Morganwg in 1700, and presided at it in 1730.

At a small distance from Bridgend is Ogmore Castle, situate on a plain ground near the road, and one mile above the mouth of the rivers Ogmore and Ewenney. It is undoubtedly of considerable antiquity, being mentioned by Caradoc as early as the reign of William Rufus, where it is recorded that the manor and castle was bestowed by Robert Fitzhamon on William de Londres, one of the twelve Norman knights who, in the year 1091, attended him in the conquest of this county. It appears to have been entire when Leland wrote his *Itinerary;* but at present only the keep and some outward walls remain: the former has a great resemblance to the keeps at Rochester, Dover, and the tower of London. A small distance south-east of the castle are several pits filled with water, said to have sunk spontaneously.

neously; one of them is deemed unfathomable, being circular and seven feet in diameter, with a rail to prevent accidents.

Newton, or Newton Nottage, is remarkable for a well about 18 feet in circumference, which ebbs and flows in opposition to the sea; that is, when it is high water at sea the water subsides in the well, and when it is low water at sea the water rises in the well. In order to account for this phenomenon, it has been supposed that at high water, the air in the veins of the spring not being at liberty to circulate by its being pent up, the water is prevented from issuing out; but when the sea retires from the shore, and frees these natural aqueducts from those obstructions, the water is at liberty to issue through them. The church is dedicated to Saint John the Baptist. —It is thought the name should be written Newton Nunnage, as it is not improbable that there was a nunnery here.

On leaving Bridgend in a northerly direction, and at the distance of six miles, is the town of Llantrissent or Llantrisaint, *i. e.* "the Church with Three Saints," being dedicated to St. Iddog, St. Dyfaenog, and St. Ieuan, situate near the summit of a cleft in one of the high hills which bound the vale of Glamorgan. The streets are, from their situation, steep and narrow, but the prospects which this obscure place affords are singularly striking, and more than compensate the traveller for surmounting some inconveniences in ascending their heights. It is an ancient borough, and its precincts abound with mines of lead ore, the property of the Marquis of Bute, who inclosed the manor. Here was once a castle, now nearly destroyed, excepting a fragment of its lofty round tower and the vestiges of out-works, which are nearly concealed by numerous shrubs. A new market house and town hall were recently erected by the nobleman just named within the precincts of the old castle. The church is a large Norman edifice, on a situation which commands a delightful prospect of the surrounding country. This was the birth-place of the celebrated Sir Llywelyn Jenkins, Secretary of State to James the Second. In this parish are two chapels, one called St. John's, and the other Talagam, now in ruins.

Two miles south-east are the remains of Castell Crug. A few years ago a good road was made from this place to the famous Pont y Prydd, or "the New Bridge," which is only a few miles distant, and situate in a beautiful vale, with very extensive views: it is a stupendous arch thrown across the river Taf. This extraordinary structure is a perfect segment of a circle, the chord of which is 140 feet, and the height, from the key-stone to the spring of the arch, 34. The bridge was undertaken, at the expense of the county, by one William Edwards, a common stone-mason of the vicinity, who likewise contracted to ensure its standing for a certain number of years. From the width and rapidity of the river, he failed in his first attempt; for, after completing a bridge with three arches, a flood, with the natural

impetuosity of the river, carried it away completely. He then conceived a noble design of raising a single arch over this ungovernable stream, which he accordingly completed; but the crown of the arch being very light and thin, it was soon forced upwards by the heavy pressure of the abutments, which were necessarily loaded with an immense quantity of earth, that the ascent of the bridge might be more practicable. Not yet discouraged by these failures, he again, in 1750, boldly dared to improve on his second plan, and executed the present surprising arch, in which he lightened the abutments by making three circular tunnels through each of them, which effectually answered the purpose, and besides gave a lightness and elegance to the structure that may now bid defiance to the most unruly floods that can possibly rise in the river, and seems calculated to endure for many ages. This work is as excellent a specimen of masonry as can anywhere be found. To view this arch as an external object, it can scarcely be sufficiently admired, as, crossing the vale abruptly, it appears to connect the opposite hills, while, with its light and elegant curve, it does in a manner almost produce the effect of magic, and will be a lasting monument of the abilities and genius of this untutored architect.

About twelve miles beyond Pont y Prydd, after crossing the Cardiff canal, the traveller arrives at

MERTHYR-TYDFIL.

The spot on which the town stands, and the immediate neighbourhood, were the fortunate purchase of Mr. Crawshay, and cost only £800, which in ground-rents alone has increased to more than the yearly rent of £1000. The neighbouring hills are composed of little else but coal and ore; and the first person who discovered these mines and determined to work them was a Mr. Bacon, formerly Member of Parliament for Aylesbury, who had a lease granted him for ninety-nine years at the low rent of £200 per annum, which gave him power to extend his works as far as the mines extended in the surrounding counties, but, from mismanagement or some unavoidable cause, he succeeded so ill that the works were soon after entirely stopped. Not long after this Mr. Bacon died, when his heirs let one part of this district to Mr. Crawshay before-mentioned, for the yearly rent of £5000; another part of this district is let to Mr. Homfray for £2000 per annum; and a third part to Messrs. Hill and Tate; and the fourth and last part to Mr. Hill. Each of these gentlemen employ several forges, which in their structure look like the gloomy castles of former times, and give a very romantic appearance to the valley. Scarcely any thing can be conceived more awfully grand than the descent on a dark night into the vale of Merthyr from any of the surrounding hills, where on a sudden the traveller beholds, as it were, numberless volcanos breathing out their undulating pillars of flame and

and smoke, while the furnaces below emit through every aperture a vivid light, which makes the whole country appear in flames; nor do the immense hammers, the wheels, the rolling mills, the water-works, uniting together their various sounds, add a little to the novelty of the scene. The number of workmen employed by the different ironmasters is very great, so that the whole population of this town exceeds ten thousand persons. Under the auspices of Mr. Crawshay an over-shot wheel was constructed, then beyond comparison the largest in the world; it is about 50 feet in diameter, made entirely of cast-iron, and cost above four thousand pounds. The water that turns it is brought from a stream in the hills, about five miles off, on a platform of wood, supported chiefly by stone pillars, except in one place, where it crosses a bridge on supporters of wood for the space of three hundred yards, and elevated eighty feet above the bed of the river, the whole of which has a very singular appearance. The church is dedicated to Tydfil, a saint, and one of the daughters of Brychan, who was slain here. The fairs are holden on a mountain called The Waun, about a mile above the town.—Near Gelli Maelog, about three miles north-east from hence, are the remains of Morlas Castle, which formerly commanded the whole country around it.

On leaving Bridgend, which has already been described, in an eastward direction, and at a short distance, is Ewenny or Wenny, where was a cell founded by John Londres, Lord of Ogmore Castle, and formerly belonging to Gloucester Abbey. The place appears to have been founded about the year 1140, and at the dissolution was valued at £87 per annum. The church (dedicated to St. Michael), from the solidity of its structure, has not suffered from time so much as might be supposed, as it is indisputably of greater antiquity than any other building in Wales.—It is said to have been finished about the year 1100, or soon after the conquest of this county; the arches are all circular, the columns short, round, and massive, with the capitals simple but corresponding; the tower is of a moderate height, and supported by four fine arches, upwards of twenty feet in the chord from their respective springs; the roof of the east end or choir is original and entire, not diagonal, but formed of one stone arch from wall to wall, with a kind of plain fascia, or bandage of stone, at regular distances, crossing and strengthening the arch. Under this roof, and against the north wall in the chancel, lies an ancient monument of stone, with an ornamental cross raised on it, and an inscription pointing it out as the sepulchre of Maurice de Londres, grandson to the founder, and a kinsman of Pain Tourberville, conqueror of Glamorganshire, who has likewise a monument here. Two miles eastward from this place is Penlline Castle, an ancient structure, but by whom built is uncertain. Adjoining are the ruins of an old mansion, not inhabited since the Revolution.

Dunawd

Dunawd or Donat's Castle, is situate on a rock impending over the sea shore. The castle is an irregular pile, bearing many marks of ancient magnificence, and still in some degree inhabited; but most of the state apartments are in a very decayed condition. It was defended by a ditch, and in some places by a triple wall; it had also a park well stocked with deer, and gardens with terraces to the water; these, although now neglected, exhibit a specimen of the stiff and formal style of laying out grounds in the seventeenth century, consisting of a series of hanging gardens or terraces, separated by stone walls and connected by flights of steps, ascending gradually from the shore to the mansion. The present building seems to have been erected by the Stradlings about 1091, or the fifth year of William Rufus, and was the family seat near 700 years ago; but, on the extinction of that family, it came to Bussey Mansell, Esq. in 1740. The castle is a large turretted edifice, but void of taste, and built on a very inelegant plan. Of the original structure little remains, and what has been added since, at different periods, forms an irregular whole, whose parts are dissimilar, unconnected, and every way displeasing. The greatest curiosities here are in the principal court, which is of a polygonal shape and disproportionately low, and ornamented with a few small round recesses in the walls, having within them the busts of the Roman Emperors and Empresses, which appear to have been formerly sumptuously painted and gilt. The state apartments are much ornamented, and contain several specimens of heavy wood work, greatly in vogue during the reigns of Elizabeth and James the First. The view from its principal room in the tower is really magnificent, looking straight across the channel (which is near twenty miles broad) to the hills of Somersetshire above Minehead. In the park are the ruins of a watch tower.

A few miles from St. Donat's Castle is Dyn'r-afon-House, or Castle, situate on a headland jutting into the sea, and forming a point, nine miles from Cowbridge. William de Londres gave this place to one Butler, his servant, in whose family it continued for a long time, and then became the property of William Vaughan, of whom it was purchased by the Wyndhams. Many parts of the house have the appearance of great antiquity, but built at different periods. Some of the lodging rooms are made out of a large chapel, and under one of the outhouses is an arch, walled up, but supposed to be the ancient burying place of the family of Londres. The entrance to the court is through a rude gate, having over it a defaced coat of arms and other ornaments.

Three miles from Penlline is Cowbridge, or Y Bont Faen, or Pont Fôn, or Pont Vaen, so called from the stone bridge over the river which falls into the sea a little below. Cowbridge is seated in a low bottom, but the soil is remarkably fertile; the streets are broad and paved; it has a good market and a handsome church, and a town hall where

where the Quarter Sessions are held. The neighbourhood is remarkable for a number of castles, and the town for an excellent grammar school, where many literary characters were educated, particularly the late Dr. Price, and others much celebrated in the republic of letters. The school is at present well supported and in great repute. It was endowed by Sir Llywelyn Jenkins, Secretary of State to James the Second.

Three miles from Cowbridge is Llangarfan, having its church dedicated to St. Carfan. Here St. Carfan is said to have founded a monastery about the year 500. Caradoc, who was cotemporary with Geoffrey of Monmouth, was born at this place. His History of Wales, or rather his Chronicle, from the abdication of Cadwalader in the year 686 to the close of the 12th century, was translated into English by Humphrey Lhwyd, and published, with additions, by Dr. David Powell, in quarto, 1684; by Wynne, 1697; and subsequently, with a Description of Wales, by Sir John Price, Knight; and has been continued to the present time by Richard Llwyd, editor of this work. The abbey is said to have stood in a meadow adjoining the village, called the Culvery. The chancel window of the church measures eleven feet by twelve.

Morelay Castle, near Moreley brook, is situate in a very fruitful valley for grass and corn. Amid the ruins of the castle was discovered an entire room, circular, and about 30 feet in diameter, the sides adorned with twelve flat arches for doors and windows, and the roof supported by a central pillar, like the chapter house in Margam abbey. This room, although one of the greatest curiosities in this part of the country, is so buried in ruins as to leave scarcely any appearance of it above ground. Llewelyn granted this castle to Reginald de Bruce in 1217, who committed it to the care of Rhŷs Vychan, but it was destroyed soon after by Llewelyn. It was in ruins in Leland's time, and belonged to the King.

At the distance of eleven miles from Cowbridge is

CARDIFF, CAERDAF, OR CAERDYF,

so called from its situation on the river Tâf, which runs along the west side of it, and falls into the sea three miles below the town. It is handsome and well-built, inclosed by a stone wall (in which were four gates) and a deep mound or ditch, with a watch-tower still to be seen. There is a good bridge of five arches over the river, and vessels of two hundred tons burden come up to the town. Between the town and the sea is a fine tract of moor-land, which used to be frequently overflowed by spring tides, and is now well secured by a sea wall, which has turned an extensive piece of salt marsh into fresh land. Three miles below the town is a harbour called Pennarth, which is very commodious for ships and vessels detained in the Bristol channel by westerly winds. The inhabitants of this town and neighbourhood

bourhood carry on a considerable trade to Bristol, and send there great quantities of oats, barley, salt butter, and poultry of all kinds, besides exporting annually large quantities of cast and wrought-iron for London and other places: the bulk of this is made at Merthyr-Tydfil, and brought down from thence by a curious navigable canal, the head of which, at Merthyr bridge, is 568 feet and 5 inches higher than the tide lock at Cardiff: the length of the canal is twenty-five miles, three furlongs, and three chains, brought through a mountainous country with wonderful ingenuity. Tin plates are manufactured at a place called Melin Griffith, four miles north of Cardiff. Cardiff consists of two parishes, viz. St. John's and St. Mary's, though at present there is but one church, for by a great inundation of the sea, in 1607, the church of St. Mary, with many other buildings in that parish, were undermined and swept away. What principally engages the attention of the traveller is its ancient castle, which is a large stately edifice on the north side of the town wall, and once a very strong building, but which was almost in ruins, till lately repaired and made habitable by its present possessor, the Marquis of Bute: there are two gates to enter into it; near one is a large white tower, where the king's armory used to be kept: the dungeon is neat and fair; but the castle towards the east and south is plain, yet dyked along the north, and defended on the west by the river Tâf. The walls at present are very extensive, and the keep, which still remains, appears very ancient and originally strong. On the keep is a large octagon tower, wherein it is said Robert Curthose was confined in 1106, by order of his brother, Henry the First. In the castle yard several coins have been found, particularly a brass one, about Trajan's reign, whence we may suppose it to have been of Roman origin. The castle was taken by Maelgon and Rhŷs, with Llewelyn's forces, in 1131, and afterwards by the Earl of Pembroke in 1233, for Henry the Third. On the old walls is carried an high walk, which surrounds the whole enclosure, and affords an extensive view from its ancient tower or keep. In the reign of Charles the First Cardiff espoused the cause of that injured King, and was besieged by Oliver Cromwell in person, with a strong party, who bombarded the castle from an entrenchment about a quarter of a mile west of the town. The cannonade was kept up for three days successively, and Oliver, in a book of his own writing, called *The Flagellum*, says "he should have found greater difficulty in subduing Cardiff castle, had it not been for a deserter from the garrison, who conducted his party through a subterraneous passage that went under the river Tâf into the castle, by which means they got possession of it, with little or no loss on either side:" but, as soon as the garrison had marched out, Oliver caused the deserter to be hung for his treachery. At this time the castle and lordship of Cardiff belonged to the Earl of Pembroke, and from that family, by intermarriages, it was vested, with many castles and

and lordships in this county, in the Windsor family. In this town Robert Earl of Gloucester, who died in 1147, founded a priory of White Friars, and another of Black ones, which continued till the general dissolution of religious houses by Henry the Eighth, in 1536. A great part of the shell of the White Friars is now to be seen, and the Black Friars house is inhabited by fishermen. Near Melyn Gryffith is Castell Coch, consisting of a circular tower, and a few intrenchments, on the brow of a perpendicular rock, supposed to have been a fortress of the Britons, but by whom erected is uncertain. Three leagues south of Cardiff are two islands, called the Flat and Steep Holmes; on the former is a light-house and a good dwelling, where pilots frequently wait to conduct ships up the Bristol channel: this island contains sixty acres of land, and is well cultivated. A little to the westward of these are Sully and Barry Islands; the former takes its name from Robert de Sully, who had it to his share on the division of the country by the Normans: the other island is named from Saint Baruch, who lies buried there, and as he gave name to the place, so the place afterwards gave name to its proprietors. On the western side of the isle, opposite the village, are the remains of an ancient castle, and also two old chapels; and towards the south, on a spot called Nell's Point, is a fine well, to which great numbers of women resort on Holy Thursday, and having washed their eyes, each drops a pin into it. Giraldus says, "In a rock of this island there is a narrow chink or cleft, to which if you put your ear, a noise is heard similar to smiths at work, sometimes you hear the blowing of a bellows, at other times the strokes of the hammers, grinding of tools, or the hissing noise of steel goods, fire burning in furnaces, &c." These sounds were probably occasioned by the repercussion of the sea in these chinks: but Giraldus mentions the same being heard at low and full tide. Humphrey Lhwyd, who visited this island, made particular enquiries relative to this fact, and consulted several of the neighbours, all of whom denied its existence in any form. Bishop Gibson says, such a circumstance did happen in Camden's time.

On a gentle elevation about two miles north-west from Cardiff, is

LLANDAF,

i. e. "the Church upon the Tâf," the houses of which are not very handsome, except a few gentlemen's houses that have been built of late years. A bishopric was, however, first erected here in the time of Saint Dubricius, whose death is commonly placed in the year 522, though some place it near one hundred years later. Llandaf was at first possessed of a large revenue, but was much reduced at the conquest, and the church destroyed. The present church was built by Bishop Urban in 1220, and dedicated to St. Peter, St. Dubricius, St. Teilo, and St. Odoceus. It consisted of two towers at the west end, eighty-nine feet high, of which that on the south only remains entire

entire, and two of its pinnacles were thrown down by the storm in 1703. The North tower, now 105 feet high, was pulled down and rebuilt in an elegant manner in the reign of Henry the Seventh, but the pinnacles and battlements were destroyed in the storm beforementioned. The body of the cathedral has been rebuilt, and is in length from east to west 263 feet; the distance from the west door to the choir is 110, and the length from the latter to the altar 75 feet, the body of the church 65, and the height from the floor to the top of the compass work of the roof the same. The choir is very neat, but there is no cross aisle, although common to almost every other cathedral in England and Wales. The remains of the old cathedral are very beautiful; the door cases are all Norman work, richly moulded; the rest is elegant gothic, but the nave is unroofed: the remaining part, on which great sums have been expended, is made up of Roman and Gothic, and the portico of a heathen temple projects over the altar. The north-west tower was re-built by Jasper Earl of Bedford, in the time of Henry the Fifth; the west windows are lancets, over which there is a statue of Henry the First; and over the door one of Dubricius: the nave and aisle contain many beautiful monuments. The whole fabric is said to have suffered considerably in the rebellion of Owen Glyndwr. The annual value of the Bishopric in the Liber Regis seems only £154. 14s. 2d. though the real revenue is estimated at £1600. The preceding is an accurate delineation of the ancient cathedral; but the modern church should be noticed separately, being singularly situated, and formed mostly with the walls of the old cathedral, and so closely incorporated in many places, that it would be difficult to distinguish the one from the other, if the architecture had been similar: but the modern church seems to be a compound of absurdities, having the gothic of ancient building ridiculously contrasted with the Venetian windows, Ionic pillars, and every impropriety of the Grecian style. In the midst of these defects in architecture, the neatness in which the church is kept, particularly the great care apparently taken of the numerous remains of antiquity that are to be found in this ancient edifice, is admirable. There is no residence here for the bishop.

About five miles from Llandaff is

CAERPHILLI, OR SENGHENYDD,

which latter name is derived from Cenydd, a saint who lived about the middle of the sixth century. It is situate among a row of hills that run through the middle of Glamorganshire towards Brecknockshire. The town is neat and clean, with many respectable houses; but the castle is the chief building, and probably one of the most noble remains of antiquity in the kingdom, situate over a small stream which runs into the Rumney. It consists of one large oblong court, with an entrance by a gateway, and two round towers from east to west:

west; on the north is a dead wall, with loop holes, and on the south a magnificent hall; at each angle was a round tower of four stories, communicating with others by a gallery in the second story. The south-east tower, from its singular situation, is supposed to exceed any thing of the kind to be found elsewhere: it stands eleven feet out of perpendicular, resting only on one part of its south side, although seventy or eighty feet in height, and was probably so removed from its place by gunpowder in the Civil Wars. The hall is a stately room, about 70 feet by 30, and 17 feet high, the roof of which is vaulted, and supported by twenty arches: on the same side are two stately windows, continuing down to the floor, and reaching above the supposed roof of the room: the sides are ornamented with trefoils and other devices common to buildings of the fourteenth century: on the side walls of the room are seven clusters of round pilasters, about four feet long, each supported by three busts, varied alternately. In the south, at equal distances, are six grooves, about nine inches wide, and eight high, intended as places for something, of which no vestige remains: the doors are placed on the east end, eight feet high, opening into a court or castle yard, which is 70 yards by 40, with another on the south side; on the east are two more, low arched, and within a yard of each other: the inner building, or main body of the castle, is entirely surrounded by an immense stone wall, supported by strong buttresses, and defended by square towers, communicating with each other by an embattled gallery, and over it a pleasant walk. In the eastern gate of the castle are two hexagonal towers, and at the right angle within this gate is a square tower, with three vacuities for portcullises, &c. Between the outer wall and the moat were the offices; the mill-house is still remaining; and without the walls of the castle are many moats and intrenchments, uniform with the bastions at the angles. The origin of this noble fabric cannot be traced to any probable source, although many conjectures have been made about it: some are inclined to think it Roman, others Saxon, and others British; but the coins of none of these nations have been found to confirm either hypothesis. Some Flemish pieces were discovered, with the image of our Saviour, and about the same time coins resembling Venetian, with a brass one like those of the middle ages, but without a syllable of inscription to assist conjecture in endeavouring to elucidate the origin of one of the largest buildings in Britain. The castle formerly belonged to the Clares Earls of Gloucester, then to the Earls of Pembroke, and afterwards became the property of Lord Mount-Stuart, in right of his wife, the heiress of Lord Windsor. On a mountain called Cefn Gelli Gaer, near the castle, on the road to Marchnadywayn, is a remarkable monument, known by the name of Y-Maen-hir, consisting of a rude stone pillar of a quadrangular form, and eight feet high, with an inscription inserted in Camden (p. 616), in the area or bed of which he supposes a person has been interred, and

and that the inscription on the pillar must be read Tefro-i-ti, or Defro-i-ti, which is Welsh, and signifies, "Mayest thou awake."—Close to the bottom is a small intrenchment.

In the chancel of the parish church of Llan-Tryddyd is a grand and superbly ornamented monument, erected in the early part of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and on which are the recumbent figures of a knight and his lady, as large as life, in the attitude of prayer; and in the churchyard is a remarkable yew tree, which girths 26 feet at the height of 6 feet from the ground, and which, near the root, is not much less than 40 feet in circumference. Tradition says Llan-Tryddyd House, the seat of Sir John Aubrey, was an asylum to many great and learned men of the church of England, during the Protectorate; and that academical degrees were conferred there.

Aber-Dâr hath its church dedicated to St. John the Baptist. The Rev. Edward Evan, an eminent dissenting preacher, philosopher, and poet, was a native of this place, and was one of the few, who, according to Mr. Owen, being initiated into the bardic mysteries, had helped to preserve the institution to the present time. He died on the 21st June, 1789, being the day fixed for him to meet the other bards of the chair of Glamorgan. Ievan Ddu ap Dafydd ap Owain, an eminent poet, was also a native of Aber-Dâr, and flourished from about the year 1440 to 1480. He was a gentleman of large estate, and a great patron of the bards, whose various acts are still traditionally told in the neighbourhood where he resided.

Saint Andrew's is situate near the Bristol channel; here are the remains of an ancient castle, called Dinas Powys Castle, formerly the property of Lord Brooke.

Bishopston or Llan-deilo Ferwalt, hath its church dedicated to St. Teilo, one of the most celebrated Saints of the British church, who lived in the latter part of the fifth and beginning of the sixth centuries. The adjacent chapel of Caswell is in ruins. There is a lead mine in a valley in this parish, called All Slade, about a quarter of a mile from the sea shore: this mine was re-opened some few years ago, and some tons of ore of a good quality were raised from it; but it was again dropped, either for want of capital or spirit in the adventurers. Several implements of the ancient miners were discovered upon re-opening it, which occasioned an idea that they perished in the mine, but no remains of them were found. In the rocks here is an extraordinary spring, that is covered at high water, but which, when the tide has quite left it, retains not the smallest taste of the salt water. It is frequently the resort of parties of pleasure from Swansea, from which it is four miles distant.

St. Bride's Major.—Here is an immense spring, which issues out of a rock, at the extremity of the parish, and the waters of which are much esteemed. This place is situated near the Bristol channel. Robert Thomas, the poet, was a native of St. Bride's Major, and flourished from about the year 1700 to 1750.

Kenfig,

Kenfig, Cynfig, or Cefn y Figen, hath its church dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen. It is a corporate town; a town hall was lately erected here, which cost £400. The borough is a lordship of itself, belonging to Thomas Mansell Talbot, Esq. with a super-lordship over North Cornelly, South Cornelly, and Searfawr. The name appears to be derived from Cefn, "a rising ground," and Figen, "a bog;" which bog has been, for time immemorial, a lake, about two miles in circumference, and which abounds with pike of a large size. Kenfig contains about 800 acres of warren and sand banks: tradition informs us, that the old town, castle, and church, were inundated on the occasion of a great storm, leaving the buildings overwhelmed by the sands, and evident marks of this calamitous event are visible, and prove the circumstance beyond contradiction. Previous to this, Kenfig was a place of great note and consideration, the high road then passing through it, which was afterwards diverted through Pyle. The remains of the castle appear about 15 feet above the top of the sand at this time, with the vestiges of a moat at the distance of 100 yards from it, and surrounding it, except on the river side, which runs at present about 20 yards to the North of it, and from thence empties itself into the Bristol channel. About 300 yards from the castle to the South, are the remains of the ancient church and burying place, as a great quantity of human bones are often discernible by the drifting of the sand. This storm, which has given a new and desolated aspect to a great district of country, happened during the last year of the reign of Edward the Sixth, or immediately on the accession of Queen Mary, in the first year of whose reign, in the year 1554, "An Act, touching the sea sands in Glamorganshire," was passed; wherein an act of the 23d of Henry the Eighth is recited, which provides for commissions of sewers, and that the said act does not extend to reform the damage done by reason of sand arising out of the sea and driven to land by storms and winds, whereby much good ground, lying on the sea-coasts in sundry places of this realm, and especially in the county of Glamorgan, is covered with such sand to the great loss of the Queen's subjects, and more is like to ensue if speedy remedy be not provided: and it enacts, that the said act of sewers and commissions shall give full power to the redress and securing of the said grounds from hurt and destruction by reason of the said sands. Empowered by this act, a commission was holden, as appears by a paper now extant in Mr. Talbot's possession, to re-ascertain the boundaries between Cynfig and Skeir, which had been so overwhelmed with sand as to leave no trace of the ancient limits. Skeir is a large extra-parochial farm, adjoining the South-east side of the parish of Cynfig, formerly appertaining to the abbey of Neath, but now, by purchase, the property of Mr. Talbot. Since this inundating devastation, the Arundo Arenaria has been planted in these sand banks, in order to bind and fix them, as it does on those

of

of Holland; and every tenant who rents in the moor adjoining covenants in his lease to give yearly the labour of a day or more, in proportion to his land, for the planting of this rush, and experience has proved its good effects. These sand banks are all rabbit warrens, and afford a fine ride, during low water, of about 12 miles, from Skeir rocks to Briton ferry. We are informed, by history, that the castle of Kenfig was inhabited by Iestyn ab Gwrgant for some time; it was afterwards, by right of conquest, seized by Robert Fitzhamon, and from him it descended to his heiress, Mabel, the wife of Robert, Earl of Gloucester, who endowed the abbey of Margam with large possessions. We cannot find the date of the first charter; but the first confirmation of the original grant was made by Thomas le Despenser and his daughter Isabel, this is dated on the 14th May, 1360; a second confirmation is dated on the 16th February, 1396; and a third on the 1st of May, 1423. Henry, who was promoted to the see of Llandaff in the year 1199, and, who died in the year 1218, gave his confirmation and grant of the church of Kenfig, with its appurtenances, to the abbey of Margam, on the petition of Walter Abbot, of Tewkesbury; but how the presentation was alienated from the Margam family and devolved to the crown, we are unable to trace, the archives of the church of Llandaff having, some years since, been destroyed by fire.

Eglwys Ilan, hath its church dedicated to Elian, a saint who lived at the close of the fifth century. In this parish is Taf Well, which is esteemed benficial in rheumatic complaints. Here is the celebrated new bridge over the river Taf, before mentioned as having been built by William Edwards, who was a native of this parish, and who lies buried in the church-yard. This parish abounds with mines and fine quarries of stone.

St. Fagan's.—There was a great battle fought here in 1648, in which the republicans were victorious. The river Elay runs through the parish, and affords plenty of fish; and being situate on the lime-stone, it has plenty of good water, esteemed as nearly equal to the medicinal hot-wells. On the 5th of July, 1808, the inhabitants were visited by a great storm of rain and hail, accompanied with thunder: a ball of fire made a hole in the garden of the Rev. W. B. M. Lisle, LL.D. the rector, and broke nearly two thousand panes of glass in the hot houses, the hail stones were so large as to make holes, in many instances, without breaking the pane, like a pistol ball. The water was several feet deep in the village, and scarcely a person was dry in their beds out of the rectory. The name of this parish is derived from a Saint, who first preached christianity here.

Flemingston, hath its church dedicated to Saint Michael. This village derives its name from the family of Fleming, who possessed the castle and lordship of St. George's under Robert Fitzhamon. There are still some remains of a castle, adjoining the churchyard, a part whereof is now used for purposes connected with husbandry.

Gelli-Gaer,

Gelli-Gaer, hath its church dedicated to Saint Cadog. The name implies "a military station embosomed with wood;" the site of an oblong square building is still discernable in fields near the present church and rectory house; and fragments of broken bricks, of superior texture, are scattered in the walls and enclosures about the vestigium of the old camp. In former times it might have been an important outpost to check incursions from the Mountains, and to defend the edifice of Caerphilly castle, from which it is distant about seven miles, and which is still majestic, though in ruins. A redoubt, formed of earth and stone, with a fountain at its base, is now entire, and commands an avenue that leads to the village, which now consists of a few detached farm houses and cottages. The country is open and healthy, and though the situation of the village is upland, and the whole parish hilly, yet it is pleasant, and the chain of gradually ascending hills and mountains that surround it, render the scenery particularly grand. It is almost insulated by rivers or rivulets from other parishes. The river Rhymny divides it from the county of Monmouth and part of Brecknock to the north-east and east; the rivers and rivulets of Bargoed, Tâf, and Clydach divide it from the parish of Merthyr Tydfil for the most part to the west, and to the south from Llan-Fabon parish. It is skirted mostly with wood, and fortified in many places with high and prominent rocks; and it contains coal and iron ore.—Brithdir, a chapel of ease in this parish, is now entire, and divine service is performed therein every fortnight.

Llan Deilo Tal y Bont hath its church dedicated to Saint Teilo. This parish abounds with coal, and is situate on the river Lloughor. The ancient monastery of Court y Carne, now in ruins, to which belonged a manor and a mill, was appendant to the abbey of Cadoxton.

Llan-Doch hath its church dedicated to Saint Dochdwy, one of the saints who accompanied Cadfan into Wales, in the beginning of the sixth century. The castle of Llandough, a seat of Thomas Mansell Talbot, Esq. leased by him to John Price, Esq. who has greatly improved it, stands on the site of the ancient castle of Walche: one tower is all which remains of that edifice. The Rev. John Walters, A. M. an eminent Welsh divine and critic, was rector of this parish, and died in the year 1797. His chief labour was the compilation of a valuable *English and Welsh Lexicon*, which he published in one large quarto volume in 1794.—He also wrote a *Dissertation on the Welsh Language*.

Llan-Dyfodwg hath its church dedicated to Tyfodwg, a saint who lived in the latter part of the fifth and beginning of the sixth centuries. A small market was formerly holden in this parish, at a place called Celli'r Fid, or "the Battle Grove," but when established is not known: it existed in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, but appears to have been soon afterwards discontinued. One or two fairs were also

also holden annually, but they have been so long disused, that the days whereon they were held are not now remembered with certainty. The soil of this parish is various, but the worst is capable of improvement. There are some excellent and powerful chalybeate springs, though but little noticed, which flow from the veins of iron ore and coal which abound here. This parish constitutes part of the Duchy of Lancaster, and its inhabitants, as tenants of the crown, are toll-free in all markets and fairs in the kingdom, excepting those held in the limits of the two Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. There are some remarkable caverns at a place called Craig Dinberth, which are supposed by some persons to have been Roman mine-works, or those of the ancient Welsh, before the art of blasting rocks with gunpowder was known. Others suppose them natural caverns, and some imagine that they were formed for the purpose of secreting persons or property during the ancient bloody feuds of the principality. Some remains of very old and clumsy oaken chests have been discovered therein, and which, on being brought into the open air, soon mouldered into dust.—These caverns are entered by deep shafts downwards.

Llan-Edeyrn hath its church dedicated to Saint Edeyrn, a bard who flourished about the middle of the seventh century, and who embraced a religious life, and had a church at Bôd-Edeyrn, in Anglesea. It is situate on the banks of the river Rhymny. According to Mr. Owen, St. Edeyrn established a christian society of three hundred in number here, which afterwards came to be called by his name.

Llan-Ganna.—The church of this parish is dedicated to Canna, a saint, the mother of Crallo. The soil is good, on a sub-stratum of lime-stone. It has been enclosed from a very remote and unknown period, and is so described in manorial surveys and title deeds so far back as the end of the thirteenth century. At the west end of the church is a very ancient stone cross, of a description pretty frequently met with in Wales, and which are, from their inscriptions, known to be of the fourth and fifth centuries: in some parts of the kingdom they are called, oddly enough, "Catharine-Wheel Crosses." Before the church stands a fine cross of gothic sculpture, of a period much later than the preceding one, seemingly of the thirteenth or fourteenth century: it is one of the very few crosses of the kind that remain undemolished. The pedestal is ascended on all sides by four steps, whence arises a slender shaft of about seven feet in height, on the top of which are elegantly sculptured the stories of the Nativity, Baptism, Transfiguration, Last Supper, Crucifixion, Resurrection, and Ascension, in fine and durable free-stone. The cross is not much injured by time, nor by the fanatical fury of the Cromwellian period; when, as tradition says, almost all those old crosses, the fine specimens of ancient taste and art, were demolished in this county, from motives of false and outrageous piety. There are lead-mines worked to considerable advantage in this parish.

Llan-Gefelach

Llan Gefelach hath its church dedicated to Saint Gefelach. The Lord Bishop of Saint David's, as Dean of the College of Brecknock, is lord of the manor, and holds two courts here annually.

Llan Genydd.—The church of this parish is dedicated to Cenydd, a saint who lived about the middle of the sixth century. It is situate on the Bristol channel. The church, which is a large structure, displays evident marks of consequence; there are the appearances of two staircases on the right and left of the entrance into the chancel, in which there are several ancient monuments. The rectorial or glebe house is called by the name of The College, either from the circumstance, it is supposed, of its belonging to All Soul's College, or from its being the site of the ancient residence of Saint Cenydd, who established a congregation here. Roger de Bellamont, Earl of Warwick, is said to have conquered Gowerland, in Wales, and to have thereupon founded a priory here in the reign of King Stephen, and to have annexed it to the abbey of Saint Taurinus, at Evreux, in Normandy. It was dedicated to Saint Kenedd; and being seized as an alien priory, was granted, by King Henry the Sixth, in 1441, to All Souls' College, in Oxford.

Llan Haran.—Llywelyn o Llangewydd, or Llywelyn Sion, an eminent poet of Glamorganshire, is distinguished, according to Mr. Owen, for having been appointed to collect the system of bardism, as traditionally preserved in the Gorsedd Morganwg, in which he presided in 1580. He fulfilled his commission with great industry and fidelity; and the result of his labours was submitted to subsequent meetings of the bards, and Edward Davydd was authorized to make some additions. The collections thus made are preserved in the possession of Mr. Turberville, of Llan Haran. Llywelyn died in the year 1616. Rhŷs Llwyd ap Rhŷs ap Rhisiart, an eminent poet also, was a native of this place, and flourished between the years 1420 and 1460.

Llan Illtwrn.—The chapel of this place is dedicated to St. Illtyd; the remains of the monastery formerly standing here are now a barn. This chapelry is supposed to have been separated from the parish of Saint Fagan's about the reign of Queen Elizabeth: it has a register, and chooses its warden, and makes its own rates, but pays to the repairs of St. Fagan's church and bridge; and when the rate for them is made, it pays the third penny. Saint Iltutus founded a monastery here in the year 508, and made it a place for education in human learning as well as religion, so that many worthy men are said to have been brought up here.

Llan Illtyd Fawr hath its church dedicated to Saint Illtyd, consolidated with the vicarages of Llŷs-Werni and Pen March. The Rev. Robert Nicholl, A. M. of Dimland House, chaplain to the Marquis of Bute, says "Lantwit Major is a large, populous village, or rather a dilapidated town, within a mile and half of the Bristol

channel. It is situated in a pleasant, healthy country, upon a strata of blue lime-stone, covered by a rich clayey mould, and is surrounded by some of the finest pasturage and the best tillage land in South Wales. The church, a large pile of building, is, with few exceptions, the most ancient in Great Britain, having been built about the year 508. The vicarage is of no great value, some of the vicarial tithes having been taken from it: its revenues were, however, once very considerable, and supported not only the monastery with which it was connected, but also the establishment of a great seminary of learning. It appears from Tanner's Notitia, that Fitzhamon removed the monastery of Llantwit to Tewkesbury, in the county of Gloucester, and that when that abbey was dissolved, King Henry the Eighth annexed its revenues to the see of Gloucester. Thus it happened, that the impropriate tithes of Llantwit belong to the Dean and Chapter of that cathedral. Near this place (and most probably at Boverton, a village about a mile distant to the south-east) was the Bovium of Antoninus, a Roman station, through which the great road, called the Julia Strata, passed in the reign of the Emperor Vespasian. In this neighbourhood many Roman coins have been discovered; and especially on the 2d of November, 1798, in a field between Eglwys Brewis and Saint Athan, by the servants of Mr. William Davies, while they were filling their carts with earth; the coins lay in the ground promiscuously, about 18 inches deep; and 30 of them, of fine silver, were in high relief and excellent preservation. A further proof of the antiquity of Boverton is, that the king of the country, according to the Liber Llandavensis, resided and kept his court there, in the latter end of the fifth century, before Saint Illtyd first visited Britain: and though this village is far inferior to Llantwit in extent and population, yet Boverton, in all ancient writings, has obtained the pre-eminence, and gives a title to the manor, which is styled to this day in the Manorial Court Rolls, "The Lordship of Boviarton and Llantwit." About a mile and a half from the village of Boverton, by the sea coast, are two Roman camps; one of them, upon the eastern cliff which defends one side of Colhugh valley, is known by the name of the Castle Ditches: it is a strong situation, being accessible on one side only; the other encampment, about two miles from hence, is also upon the sea coast, and about the same distance from Boverton. That Llantwit received its name from Saint Illtyd is universally admitted; and that it continued to flourish many years after him there can be no doubt. The many broad and direct roads, leading towards Llantwit Major, which, like the radii of a wheel, terminate and concentrate there—the numerous streets and lanes, which are still to be seen intersecting each other, like those of our large cities, and still retaining their ancient names—the extraordinary size of its church, and the churchyard surrounding it—and the number of human skulls, which, from time to time, have been dug up in the gardens

and

and fields adjoining, when fresh land has been broken up for the purpose of tillage—prove it to have been a place of much consequence, and of great population: and history and tradition bear testimony to the fact. The townhall still remains, where justice was formerly administered. The gaol was demolished only a very few years ago: but the name of "The Gallows-way" is still retained, in the road where executions were usually conducted, and where skeletons have from time to time been discovered. It formerly traded with the Somersetshire coast, and the dialect of that county was prevalent here within the memory of man: for, near this place, is the ancient port of Colhugh, formerly Colhow, where vessels came in for protection in the reign of King Henry the Eighth. But so great are the changes which time has produced upon this coast, that Colhugh is now avoided by mariners, as Scylla and Charybdis were by the Trojan fleet. However, the ancient remains of the harbour may yet be traced, although the sea has made such vast incroachments here; the foundation of the pier, and the piles of wood which formed its defence on the western side, being still visible at low water. The seminary at Llantwit flourished so much under the care and protection of Saint Illtyd, that scholars flocked to him from every quarter, and most of the British nobility and sons of foreign princes received their education here; his pupils are said to have exceeded 2000 in number, who had four hundred houses and seven halls; and many of them made a figure in the world, but particularly Gildas the Historian; David, who removed the episcopal see from Caerleon to Saint David's, in the county of Pembroke; Paulinus, or Paul bishop of Leon, in Spain; Sampson, successor to Saint David, and afterwards archbishop of Dôl in Britany; Talhaiarn, a celebrated bard and a distinguished saint; and also the famous Taliesin; all of whom received their education here. The ruins and remains of the school-house are to be seen to this day in a garden on the north side of the churchyard; and the monastery, halls, and buildings thereto belonging, stood in a field upon what is termed the "Hill-head," on the north side of the tithe barn. The chantry-house (now converted into a barn) is situate in the churchyard, nearly opposite to the church porch; and there are the remains of several ancient buildings still visible in several parts of the town. The ascent to the townhall, which is still perfect, is by two flights of steps, and the room above is very spacious: the upper part is raised above the lower, like the halls in our universities; and a table ran from wall to wall, having seats all round, which were in good preservation a few years ago; over the townhall is a bell upon which the clock strikes, said to have been presented to St. Illtyd, by one of the Roman Pontiffs, and concerning which Holinshed, in his Chronicles, has given us a superstitious story. The house belonging to the rectorial tithes, which were severed from this monastery by Robert Fitzhamon, is still a respectable building, having hanging

gardens descending towards the church: there are within it several spacious rooms, which have usually been occupied by the parish school-master, and are capable of containing several hundred persons. There are two churches at Llantwit Major, contiguous to each other, being separated by the belfry and tower, containing six harmonious bells, which for sweetness of tone are scarcely surpassed. The most western building, or old church, is said to have been deserted on account of its damp situation; but, as the situation does not, upon examination, appear objectionable in this respect, the new church must have been erected from some other cause. Below the old church is an ancient building, called "The Lady's Chapel," which is now almost entirely dilapidated: a door opened into it from the old church, and there were some figures or busts of saints to be seen against the walls, a few years ago; but latterly a great part of the walls have tumbled in. The new church contains three aisles, it has a handsome altar-piece, and is capable of holding a very large congregation. In Bishop Gibson's edition of Camden's Britannia, is a description of two curious monuments on the north side of the church. There are also in the middle of the old church two curious monumental stones, lying side by side, and touching each other, and which, according to tradition, were brought hither about the year 1730, by a Mr. Thomas Morgan, who was school-master and parish-clerk here at that time, from a place called "The Great House," where it is said a church formerly stood. In the vestry (a room behind the altar) there is a gigantic figure of a man, in the dress of Henry the Eighth's reign, with an inscription describing it as the statue of Richard Hopkins; it is of a whitish kind of free-stone, like that which is dug up near the river side at Bridgend, in this county; it is a laboured piece, and well finished, but is imperfect at the bottom. Of all these monuments there is a further description, accompanied with plates, in the Archaiologia, vol. vi. p. 22, *et seq.*— Near Hopkins's statue is the bust of a child, cut in high relief; and near the altar is another rude figure of a person kneeling, and much in the same dress as Hopkins. This figure has two small columns, one on each side of it, and just fits a niche, where seemingly was also a bason for the holy water, but which is now covered over with lime. In the churchyard, on the south side of the church near the lower door, is a stone which lies flat on the ground; this appears to have been part of an ancient cross, its length being six feet; it is also said to have been brought hither by Mr. Thomas Morgan from "The Great House," and is likewise described in the Archaiologia. Another stone rudely worked, but without any letters upon it, lies by the south door of the church, on the left hand side as you enter. It is about four feet long, and has four sides, which are nearly parallel, and of equal dimensions. I shall now conclude this account of the antiquities of Llantwit Major with a description of a very curious monumental

monumental cross hitherto unnoticed by any antiquary, it having been but lately discovered, after lying for ages under ground. It was not visible when the learned Mr. Lhuyd wrote his continuation of Camden's Britannia, and, perhaps, would have remained so to the end of time, had it not been for the exertions of Mr. Edward Williams (the self-taught genius and antiquary of Wales), who, led by traditional history, undertook the arduous task of raising this immense stone, which, with the help of twelve strong men, he accomplished, taking it up out of the earth, and erecting it against the wall of the church porch, in the place where it originally stood, on the 30th of August, 1793. But it may not be improper to give his own account of this discovery, and of the circumstance which led to it, since it affords a proof, among many others, that traditional history is not to be discredited, when it contains nothing improbable, or that is not repugnant to common sense.—"In the summer of 1789, I dug out of the ground in Llantwit churchyard a large monumental stone; it is the shaft of a cross; and its history affords a remarkable instance of the fidelity of popular tradition. About forty years ago, one Richard Purton, then living at Llan-Maes juxta Llantwit, though only a shoemaker, was more intelligent than most of his class. He had read more history than many, was something of an antiquary, and had stored his memory with a number of interesting popular traditions. I was then about twelve or fourteen years of age, and, like him, fond of history and antiquities. He one day shewed me a spot on the east side of the porch of the old church at Llantwit, where he said a large monumental stone lay buried in the ground, with an inscription on it to the memory of two kings. The tradition of the accident, which buried it in the ground, he gave as follows. Long before the memory of the oldest person he ever knew (for the knowledge of it was only traditionary) there was a young man at Llantwit, called "Will the Giant." He, at seventeen years of age, was seven feet seven inches high, but, as is usual in premature and supernatural growth, he fell into a decline, of which he died. He had expressed a desire to be buried near the monumental stone which stood by the church porch; his wish was complied with; the grave was dug much larger than graves usually are, so that one end of it extended to the foot of the stone that was fixed in the ground. Just as the corpse had been laid in the ground, the stone gave way, and fell into the grave. Some had a narrow escape for their lives. But, as the stone was so large as not to be easily removed, it was left there covered over with earth. After I heard this traditional account, I had a great desire to dig for this stone, and many times endeavoured to engage the attention of several, and their assistance, but my idea was always treated with ridicule. In the year 1789, being at work in Llantwit church, and being one day unable to go on with business (a stone cutter by trade) for want of assistance, it being the very height of corn harvest, and not

a man

a man to be found, I employed a great part of the day in digging in search of this stone, and found it. I cleared away all the earth about it. Christopher Wilkins and the late Mr. David Jones (two very respectable farmers), on seing this stone, ordered their men to assist me; and we, with great difficulty, got it out of the ground, and on it we found the following inscription :—

In nomine Dei summi incipit crux Salvatoris, quæ preparavit Samsoni Apati (*i. e.* Abbati), pro anima sua et pro anima Juthahelo Rex et Artmali. Tegat crux me.

THUS TRANSLATED.

In the name of the most high God, the cross of our Saviour begins, which the king has erected to the memory of Sampson the Abbot, and to Juthahel and Artmael, for the sake of their souls. May the cross protect me."

It appears from the old register at Llandaff, that Juthahel King of Glamorgan, and Artmael King of Gwent (Monmouthshire), bestowed lands and privileges very liberally on the churches of St. Illtyd.

The dimensions of this stone are as follow: height nine feet; breadth one foot seven inches at the top, and two feet four inches at the bottom; thickness one foot three inches; it is of durable silicious free-stone.

It lay on the ground where it had been raised out of the grave till the 28th of August, 1793, when I found assistance to erect it against the east side of the church porch, where it now stands. It must have been buried in the ground before the continuator of Camden took a copy of the inscriptions on Saint Illtyd's monument, &c. otherwise he would certainly have copied this also; as he would have done the old stone, placed by Mr. Thomas Morgan before the church, had it then been there."

Llan Isan hath its church dedicated to Isan, a saint who lived in the middle of the seventh century. There is nothing of note here except St. Denis's Well, which is esteemed efficacious in scorbutic complaints.

Llan Maes.—The church of this parish is dedicated to St. Cadog. It is situated in the most fertile part of the vale of Glamorgan, and a rivulet passes by the churchyard, which discharges itself into the Bristol channel, three miles from hence; there are the ruins of an old castle, which belonged to the Malifants; and the manor, which now belongs to the Marquis of Bute, is termed in the ancient court rolls the manor of Bedford and Malifant. The place was formerly remarkable for the longevity of its inhabitants, and in the ancient register of the parish there are several entries of persons being buried upwards of 100 years of age: but the following is remarkable, it is copied verbatim—" Ivan Yorath, buried a Saterdaye, the XII day of July, anno domini 1621, et anno regni regis vicesimo primo anno que aetatis circa 180.—He was a sowdiar in the fights of Boswoorthe, and

and lived at Lantwit Major, and he lived muche by fishing." Leland, in his Itinerary, says—"There is a castelle almost standing on an even grounde, half a mile from Llaniltute by Est North Est, caullid Llaniiais; it is almost al doun; it longgith now to the king; it was in *hominum memoria* the Male-infauntes, ther communely caullid the Malifauntes. There cummith a litle bekke within a stone caste of the castelle, and rennith on the west side of it: it risith, by gesse, halfe a mile by North West above the castelle of Llaniiays, and, passing by this castelle, it goith into Colhow water by likelihood." Near Llanmaes village are the vestiges of a Roman camp.

Llan Rhidian hath its church dedicated to St. Rhidian. This church was formerly attached to the abbey of Neath: here are two mineral springs; that, which is on the low lands, near the church, is esteemed efficacious in scorbutic cases; the other, on Cefn Bryn, called Holy Well, is deemed serviceable in strengthening the eyes. There are some curious subterranean caverns in the limestone rocks here: and a stream of water, which, rushing from its concealed source with great impetuosity, at the foot of a hill near the church, turns two mills within the distance of 200 yards only from its first appearance. On a hill, near the village, called Cil Ifor Hill, there are vestiges of an intrenched camp, supposed to have been thrown up by Ifor ap Cedifor, a chieftain of Glamorgan, in his wars with the English in the year 1110. Here are some good freestone quarries. Near the western extremity of this parish is situated the castle of Weobley, a considerable part of which remains, and part of it is converted into a farm house: it appears to have been of great strength and extent, it stands on an eminence, having a fine view of the navigable river Burry or Lloughor, which flows about a quarter of a mile below it. At Penclawdd, in the higher division of this parish, are considerable copper works, erected about 40 years ago, denominated the Cheadle Copper Company; they were at first supplied with coals from a colliery not far distant, which was stopped on account of some failure in the veins; when the colliery at Lloughor was opened by the same company, and the works are now furnished with coals from Lloughor colliery by barges; the ships, which bring the ore from Cornwall and other places, take back coals from Lloughor, or Llan Elly, or Yspytty, on the Caermarthenshire side of the river.

Llan Samled hath its church dedicated to Samled, a saint whose history is not known: there are excellent seams of coal now working in this parish, which are conveyed in barges by the canal to the sea-port of Swansea. Here are also three large copper works, and two mills for the purpose of finishing the copper for market.

Lloughor or Castell Llychwr.—The church of this parish is dedicated to St. Michael. Lloughor is a corporate town, and one of the contributory boroughs with Caerdiff. Among the officers of the

the corporation is one denominated the Ale Taster, also two other officers to impound strange cattle upon the common, and an unlimited number of constables at the will of the Steward of the Court, but at present there are only four sworn within the borough. In this borough is a house called the sanctuary, which is supposed to have been appurtenant to the manor of Millwood or St. John's, near Swansea, which formerly belonged to the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem. The entrance to this parish is near the 4th milestone, on the road from Swansea to Lloughor. It is supposed that a church formerly stood about 200 yards to the south of the ruins of the castle, on the marsh, as there is, at this day, a spot in that place called Story Myhangel, on which it is thought to have been erected. The present church is situated upon an eminence, and commands an extensive and beautiful view of the surrounding country. This is the Leucarum of Richard of Cirencester, and the fifth Roman station on the Via Julia; the name implies that it was a fortification on the river Lloughor or Llychwr, which divides the counties of Glamorgan and Caermarthen, over which there is a ferry. It is, however, strongly conjectured, from traditionary reports, that the name originally given to it by the Romans was Tre Afangc, or Beaver Town, from that animal then abounding in the river; hence the place is often called Trewanc, by way of derision. The ruins of the castle are of a quadrangular form, situate on a mount, with the remains of two ditches which formerly surrounded it. It is not known by whom this edifice was erected, but I am induced to think that the mount was thrown up by the Romans, who had a garrison here, as their road, called the Julia Strata, passed through this town; and that the castle was built by the first Lords Marchers, to whom this district was granted by the crown: it was destroyed by Gruffydd ap Rhŷs, prince of South Wales, in 1115. In the reign of Henry the Second it was granted to Hugh de Spencer, who must have repaired, if not built, the present remains of the castle. Roman coins have been found here: and on a common about three miles east of the town, there are two small square encampments, evidently Roman, which are situated very near each other, and, from their being raised on a common, called Mynydd Carn Gôch, it is probable that they were the hasty efforts of some advanced post to secure itself from surprize, as it is evident that a battle was fought near this spot, at a place called to this day Câdley, or the field of battle. An extensive colliery is carried on here; the coal is of excellent quality, and in the summer there is a considerable trade in the river. At the entrance into the court-yard of the parsonage house, lies a large but curiously wrought stone, which is supposed by some to have been a Roman military stone; it is a favourite resort on a summer's evening, and forms a good seat.

Llŷs Faen hath its church dedicated to Cynfran, a saint who lived about the middle of the fifth century. Rhad Duw a Chynfran lwyd

lwyd ar y da, *i. e.* "The grace of God, and the blessed Cynfran on the cattle," is an ejaculation made use of in offering at the well of St. Cynfran, on behalf of diseased cattle.

Margam.—The church of this parish is dedicated to St. Mary. Margam is not a market town, but since the establishment of copper works, a Saturday's market is now holden adjacent to them. It is situated very pleasantly under the shelter of a lofty hill, and luxuriant woods. According to the Rev. John Hunt, L.L.D. the name of this parish has, for many centuries, been spelt Margam, a corruption of the ancient British name Margan, or Mawrgan, now pronounced Morgan, signifying the great head or chief, in old English, Grostest, and, according to the oldest British, a transposition of the word Canmor, a name given to Malcolm the Third, king of Scotland. Previous to the thirteenth century, this parish was called Pen Dar, meaning the oak summit or mountain, a name very expressive of the present scenery. The church being dedicated to the Virgin Mary, the name also of the parish has been fancifully derived from that circumstance, from Mair Gwm, or Mary's valley, or Cwm. There are vestiges of a ruined chapel in the hamlet of Havod y Porth; of one in the hamlet of Trisaint; and another in that part of Margam wood called Craig y Chappel, on an eminence above the present church; this is supposed to have been either the parish church in the time of the abbey to accommodate the dwellers on the mountains, or a private oratory appertaining to it; the latter appears to be the most probable conjecture. The abbey of Pen Dar was founded by Robert Earl of Gloucester, in the year 1147, for white monks, and assumed the appellation of Margam, from Mawrgan, the son of Caradoc, in the year 1200 or thereabouts; who, with his brothers Cadwallon and Meriedoc, confirmed by charter their father's benefactions to the abbey. The house appears to have been one side of a quadrangle: among the offices are some remains of a beautiful circular chapter house, 50 feet by 12 feet diameter, with 12 pointed windows, the roof resting on a single central clustered column; behind it are the cloister which joined it to the church, which has the arches of the nave round. A great part of the ancient remains have been lately altered, and some pulled down, but many vestiges still exist in the park and adjacent buildings. The stables and offices retain many marks of antiquity, particularly the doors; this building has, from neglect, become a ruin. In 1761, the tomb of an abbot was to be seen here, which then lay over a drain; on this stone were two lines of Latin verse, in the monkish jingle of the times; and in the street was a cross, having its pedestal carved with nobs and fret work, containing likewise some hieroglyphics, and near the top two curious figures. A good specimen of the Anglo-Norman architecture appears on the west front of the church, but the inside is plain and unadorned except a few marble monuments for the Mansell family, and one for Sir Lewis Mansell,

Mansell, dated 1638, which is well executed. On the top of an adjoining hill is a Roman monumental stone, mentioned by Camden, called Maen Llythyrog, and on the west of Margam hill is a Roman encampment, and old intrenchments lie contiguous to it and the abbey. There is also a Roman monumental stone near Eglwys Nunydd, in this parish, on the high road from Margam to Cynfig. A mile from the abbey was a convent of nuns, called Eglwys Nunydd, or the Nuns Church, now a farm house. Of this foundation no record exists, but stories are still prevalent of subterraneous connexions between the two houses. Previous to the foundation of the Cistercian abbey by Earl Robert, we can trace no memorials; and as the Earl was dispossessed of his English estates, by King Stephen, for his adherence to the claim of his half-sister the Empress Matilda, it is supposed, that, at his death at Gloucester, on the 31st October, 1147, he gave his sanction and patronage to the establishment, and endowed it with this extensive parish and other property, being then part of vast domains which he became possessed of by his marriage with Maud, the daughter and heiress of Robert Fitz-Hamon, the Norman chieftain, in the county of Glamorgan; by the same right he became lord of the castle and township of Cynfig, which adjoins Margam, and was bequeathed to the abbey with it; as also of Caerdiff castle, which he gave to his son William, as it appears that this Earl with his Countess, Hawisea, were taken prisoners in the year 1158, by the Welsh, in this fortress. Towards the conclusion of this century, Caradoc, by a nuncupative will, bequeathed large possessions to the abbey, which his sons Mawrgan, Cadwallon, and Mereiedoc, confirmed by charter *sans date*, addressed "Ordini Cistercienci et Fratri Meilero et Fratribus de Pendar." But in the grant of lands, bestowed on the abbey in 1349, by Sir John D'Abene, a descendant in the fifth generation from Caradoc, it is therein termed the abbey of Margam. In the second volume of Mr. Stevens's edition of Sir William Dugdale's Monasticon, p. 37, he speaks of Pendâr as a Cistercian monastery in Wales, the site of which no writer on monastical history has discovered; but states, that in the charter of Margam granted by Mawrgan and his brothers, this monastery is denominated Pendâr, and, therefore, identified with Margam. The abbey, in all probability, derived its appellation from the name of the person who granted the charter, though Caradoc's name had the better claim, and it was first appropriated to the abbey, the church, and the houses clustered round it. This surmise is strengthened by the fact, that the inhabitants of this parish, even now, when they speak of Margam, mean to denote what is comprehended in the abbey demesne, though it is the general name of the whole parish. To perpetuate our names may be deemed a natural and laudable impulse of the human mind, and such, perhaps, was Mawrgan's; and such seems to have been that of Hugo le Despenser, though with less success,

success, who, confirming to this abbey the grant of various lands given to his ancestors, the De Clares, Earls of Gloucester and Hereford, addresses his grant in two instances, "Monachis de Clareval de foundacione Abbice de Margam;" the appellation of Pendâr, the oak summit, is not totally forgotten, and is certainly very appropriate to the great feature of this parish, as the wood which rises immediately from the church, and a line parallel with it, presents a magnificent object to the country, and is a conspicuous land-mark to the Bristol channel. It covers the breast of a mountain 800 feet in height, more than a mile in circumference, and in grandeur is supposed to stand unrivalled. Upon a rough valuation, made some few years ago, of the oak timber it contained, the estimate was £60,000. This wood was, in the ancient grants, denominated Cryke Wood, "Totum illum Boscum vocatum Cryke Wodde." At the dissolution of the abbey (26 Henry VIII.), its property, consisting of this parish, the contributory borough and township of Cynfig, with a great extent of lands and impropriate rights was rated at £181. 7s. 4d. per annum, according to Dugdale, and £188. 14s. 6d. according to Speed. But by letters patent under the Great Seal, dated 5th day of August, 35 Henry VIII. it was valued by the commissioners at £40. 12s. 11d. and sold to Sir Rice Mansel, knight, for £642. 9s. 8d. and on the 11th December, 4th and 5th of Philip and Mary, a remaining part was sold to the said Sir Rice Mansel for £283. 15s. 3d. valuation not recorded, perhaps comprehended in the first. Sir Rice Mansel, knight, possessed a castellated mansion on the north-west side of Oxwich bay, in the hundred of Gower, in this county. His ancestor, Sir Hugh Mansel, married the sister and heiress of Sir John Penrice, knight, of Penrice Castle, on the opposite side of the bay, and by that connexion acquired great property contiguous to his own. But the purchase of Margam inducing Sir Rice Mansel to reside there, as a richer country and more commodious situation, his castles in Gower became dilapidated, but even now exhibit proud remains of ancient grandeur. A modern house, built on an elegant but small scale, at the foot of the castle of Penrice, by the present possessor of the Margam estate, is now and has been the residence of the Talbot family (the heirs by the maternal line of the Mansels) for the last 30 years. A manuscript in the library of His Grace the Duke of Beaufort, at Badminton, records a tour of the then Duke of Beaufort through South Wales, in the year 1684, and his reception by Sir Edward Mansel, at Margam, on the 16th of August. To pass over the usual welcomes of Welsh hospitality, it may not be uninteresting to relate that, amidst other entertainments, with which His Grace was amused, a diversion at that time in request, and every way characteristic of the active energy of the Cambrian, was exhibited, of Deer-hunting in the park by footmen, who ran down two bucks, and led them alive to the ante-court of the house to be viewed by the keeper

keeper and party, and, if judged fit for the table, to receive the fatal stroke from a scymitar. A summer-house, built on an intrenched hill, called Pen y Castell, commands a view of this extensive park, and was a well selected spot for observing the sport. The manuscript, from which this extract is taken, is so very particular and circumstantial in its narrative, that, as it makes no mention of the Orangery, since so celebrated, there is great reason to suppose, that so handsome and singular an appendage to a gentleman's seat, so far from being omitted, would have claimed peculiar attention, and, if it did exist at that time, would have been recorded in these annals. No note has been made by the family of its first introduction, but if we believe oral tradition respecting it, and we have no other, it originated from a shipwreck on this coast. A vessel was conveying from Portugal to Queen Mary, a present from a Dutch merchant of orange and lemon trees: being stranded, the plants were secured and cultivated in a house 150 feet in length, with stoves, and a handsome pavilion in the centre. Whether they were not claimed, or by any means not compensated for, we do not know, but Sir Thomas Mansel, baronet, who was Comptroller of the Household to Queen Anne, and afterwards, in 1711, raised to the peerage, made an annual present of fruit to her Majesty. Whether this was to be considered a quit rent for the grant of former possession, or a grateful compliment for the honours conferred upon him, it is impossible to decide. The present possessor, in 1787, built a new green-house in a most superb style, 327 feet in length, with a handsome doric front, and a pavilion at each end, and in the year 1800, a conservatory with flues in the ground. The trees in the green-house are all standards, planted in square boxes, and are remarkable for their round branching heads; they are in number about 110, and many of them are about 18 feet high. There are about 40 in the conservatory, planted in the natural earth, and traced against a trellis framing, where the fruit abounds, and attains its native size and excellence. The collection consists of the Seville, China, cedra, pomegranate, curled-leaved, and nutmeg oranges; lemons,—burgamots, citrons, and shaddocks. The pleasure ground, surrounding these Orangeries, is peculiarly favourable to the growth of evergreens; amongst these a bay tree, or rather a bay bush, derived from one root, but sprouting from the ground in various branches, is the most conspicuous, being 65 feet in height, and 45 feet in diameter: the arbutes are innumerable, and with the Portugal laurel and holly, exhibit the most luxuriant vegetation. A copper mine, on the most extended plan of any in the Principality, has been working here for several years, it was established by the English Copper Company, consumes daily about 70 tons of coal, with which this parish abounds, and by possessing a commodious harbour at the influx of the Afon into the Severn, it commands a great facility of exportation. Iron ore is also in many parts discoverable, and limestone abounds in the neighbourhood.

Mary

Mary Church, or Eglwys Fair.—The Lordship of Rhythyn, mostly contained within this parish, constituted formerly one of the many petty sovereignties into which the county of Glamorgan was divided, each exercising *Jure Regalia;* but which, with all the other Lord Marchers, was abolished by the incorporation of Wales with England in the reign of King Henry the Eighth.

St. Nicholas.—There is a house adjoining the church-yard here which is kept in repair at the expense of the parish, and wherein poor people live; it appears, on its first institution, to have been either a chantry or alms-house; at the distance of a quarter of a mile, in a field on the south-side of the village, there is a remarkable stone (measuring in length 24 feet, and in breadth 10 feet) erected on others 6 feet high, and so constitutes a spacious room; it is thought to be a druidical temple; it has a mound raised round it, except in one place where you enter. On the north-side of the village, at an equal distance, there are the remains of a Roman encampment.

Oxwich hath its church dedicated to St. Illtyd: it is situate on the Bristol channel. Here are the remains of a large superb old mansion, called Oxwich castle, which was built, by Sir Rice Mansell, about the reign of King Henry the Eighth; part of it now is converted into a large farm-house; the remains of a beautiful banquetting room are still to be seen, which is ascended by a flight of steps; the windows are of large and handsome dimensions: about twenty years ago, a great part of this building fell in and destroyed the dairy, belonging to the farmer, with all its contents, but, fortunately, no further mischief was done. This castle is not supposed to have been built for the purpose of defence, though a few yards distant, at the top of Oxwich Wood, are the remains of a watch tower, which appears to have been of much stronger workmanship, and of a more ancient date; it commands a most extensive and beautiful view of Oxwich Bay, and the neighbouring country, which is well wooded. The parsonage-house was erected, about forty years ago, by Thomas Mansell Talbot, Esq. the patron of the living: it is a very commodious and complete building, fronting the Bay of Oxwich. The church is romantically situate on the edge of the wood, not far from the sea shore, and, from the sands, is a very pleasing object, appearing to be enveloped in the trees. Between the church and the sea, stand the ruins of the old parsonage-house; the outer wall of which, still remaining, is built on the rocks, and washed, at high water in spring tides, by the sea, which, latterly, seemed so much to threaten destruction to the house, that Mr. Talbot, with great liberality, built the present one. Tradition says, that the sea destroyed land and houses which formerly lay below the church: this appears very likely, as the church now stands on the southern extremity of the parsonage, and at some distance from the villages of Oxwich and Slade. The parsonage-house is now the nearest to the church. The sands here are remarkably firm and smooth,

smooth, and the water generally clear; consequently it is an excellent place for sea-bathing. Plenty of crabs and lobsters are caught here, and occasionally oysters. The sea weeds, known by the names of laver and samphire, abound on these rocks: the laver is a broad and thin green leaf, growing on the flat rocks or stones in the sea; it is gathered and then boiled well, put in earthen pots with merely a little salt, and sent, as a rarity, to a great distance: the samphire grows on the larger rocks or cliffs not overflown by the sea, and, when not in blossom, it is gathered, boiled, and pickled, and is an excellent substitute for capers, and much esteemed as a pickle.

Pen Arth hath its church dedicated to St. Mary. There are vestiges of a church which formerly stood within 100 yards of Pen Arth castle. About six or seven hundred acres adjacent are now covered with sand, and the foundation of the houses are frequently dug up at the depth of several feet. The present parish church was built about half a mile to the eastward of these ruins. A town is supposed to have stood formerly where the sands now are, as there is still a village to the south of them, called South Gate, and a farm-house to the north of them, called Norton, or Northtown. It is conjectured to take its name from the jutting out of a part of the parish into the Bristol channel, something like the shape of a bear's head. Extensive remains of the castle are still to be seen: it is situate a few hundred yards above the mouth of a small rivulet, called Pen Arth Pill, which divided the parishes of Pen Maen and Pen Arth; the gateway, which is nearly in a perfect state, is a noble specimen of ancient architecture; it is now surrounded by large sand hills, and the sea flows within two hundred yards of its base. A little below the castle on the sands is a rock, called the Three Cliffs, from its resemblance to three sugar loaves placed in a line. In the centre of this rock is a curiously-formed arch, sufficiently large to admit a man to pass through, and in stormy weather, the wind and sea raging against it, occasions a tremendous noise somewhat like the blowing of immense forge bellows. The rocks extend from this place to Pwll ddû Point, which forms the eastern side of Oxwich Bay. About a quarter of a mile further is a singular cavern in a cliff, called Bacon's Hole, nearly in the centre between the summit of the precipice and the sea. It is inaccessible on the sea side at any state of the tide; but there is a narrow and steep path from the top of the cliff leading down to it, which is dangerous to those who are unaccustomed to such roads, as a false step would, doubtless, precipitate them into the ocean; it is, however, frequently descended.

Pen Marc hath its church dedicated to St. Mark: the chapels of ease of Aber Ddaw and Rhôs have been demolished, or at least disused, since the time of Oliver Cromwell. The ancient castle of Pen Marc, which belonged to Gilbert Humphreville, one of the Norman adventurers, has been in ruins since the time of Owain Glyndwr.

Glyndwr. Fonmon castle is habitable, and is now the seat of Robert Jones, Esq. There is a tradition that, in times of popery, a human skull, pretended to be that of St. Mark, was kept in the church-yard, and that it was from this relic the church and parish were named.

Pyle hath its chapel dedicated to St. James the Apostle. There is a spring near the chapel, called Collwyn Well, which has been famed, for some centuries past, for its medicinal virtues.

Reynoldston is supposed to have taken its name from Sir Reginald de Breos, who was a Lord of the Manor, and the founder of the church, which is dedicated to St. George, and after whom a very fine well is called near the church. Contiguous to St. George's well, is another fine spring, which is supposed to possess some medicinal virtues, and is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin. There is also on Cefn-y Brynn a remarkable well, called Holy Well, a very copious spring, which has the remains of antiquity about its square inclosure: tradition hands down its celebrity for great cures; and it has been customary for the inhabitants of the vicinity to resort to it on Sunday evenings to drink its water, and pay the tribute of throwing in a pin. In a field adjoining Bryn-Field some Roman antiquities have been discovered (where are still the remains of an ancient encampment) by John Lucas, Esq. who has a handsome residence in this parish, called Stout Hall: these antiquities were discovered in a fosse which surrounds the encampment. The famous druidical monument, called Arthur's Stone, mentioned by Camden, is in this parish, and is situate on the north-side of Cefn y Brynn: it is supported by six rough pillars; there are four other pillars standing alone, which supported a part of the stone now broken off, by what means is now unknown, though it is said that it was broken off for the purpose of making mill-stones, but was afterwards found unfit for the intention: several smaller pieces have, from time to time, been broken off, chiefly through mere wickedness, so that it must have decreased in size; it is supposed to weigh now about twenty tons, and to have been brought from a distance, as it is of a different quality to the stone found upon this hill; underneath it is a spring of water seldom dry: a great quantity of loose stone, thrown there by the country people, served to hide some part of the pillars, but were cleared away at the expense of Mr. Lucas. A handsome road was made along the summit of this hill by Thomas Mansell Talbot, Esq. from which is a beautiful and extensive view of the Bristol channel, the coast of Devon, Pembroke, and Carmarthen, and the whole of the river Burry as far as Loughor, and the whole of the Peninsula of Gower, which from hence appears nearly an island. This is a most beautiful ride in the summer season. On the summit of Cefn y Brynn are several large heaps of stones, particularly on the eastern extremity, just above Pen Maen church, and which is called the Beacon by the country people; these were, probably, either burying places or monuments erected by the Druids.

In

In the grounds at Stout Hall is a Meini Gwŷr, fourteen feet long, composed of granite, the same as Arthur's Stone: this pillar is similar, in shape and proportion, to those of Stone Henge. In the garden is a very curious and extensive cavern, large enough to contain 2000 men: the bottom of it is a plain, about forty feet below the surface of the ground; there are two entrances into it, one by a long flight of rustic steps, the other by a gradual descent: the first discovery of it was by a small aperture in the lime-stone rock, containing a very fast clay; this Mr. Lucas scooped out, and was not a little gratified to find the hollow expand, and the fine arched roof appear; his exploring mind could not then rest till he had scooped out some thousands of tons of clay, which, with a little assistance, and now and then blowing the rock, opened the finest cavern in the kingdom, and perhaps in Europe: the arched roofs, in some places thirty-six, but not less than ten, feet high, are exceedingly grand; and it is tolerably lighted by several natural openings through the incumbent earth.

Rhôs Sili hath its church dedicated to Fili, or Ffili, a saint who lived in the beginning of the seventh century, (there was also Ffili Gawr, an ancient British chieftain, from whom, it is supposed, the castle of Caerphilly, or Caer Ffili, derived its name.) In the division of Glamorgan by the Norman adventurers, this lordship was given to Reginald Sili.

Dre Rhûdd hath its chapel dedicated to St. James. Here is a mineral spring which is esteemed efficacious in the cure of sore eyes. It is situate on the river Rhymny; and the place is said to derive its name from the great number of yew trees that grow here.

Roath hath its church dedicated to St. Margaret. The Marquis of Bute, some years ago, re-built the chancel, and put up a very elegant ornamented window at the east end of it. To the north of the chancel, and adjoining to it, His Lordship has erected a new burying place for his family: the late Marchioness, the late Lord Mount Stuart, and others, are therein deposited.

Sully hath its church dedicated to St. John the Baptist. The castle and lordship formerly belonged to one of the Norman Conquerors.

Tythegstone hath its church dedicated to St. Tudwg, a saint of the congregation of Cenydd, who lived until about the middle of the sixth century. On the estate of Henry Knight, Esq. in this parish, are the remains of a cromlech.

Ystrad Owain hath its church dedicated to St. Owain, or Owain Finddu, a distinguished character in the History of Britain; and who was also accounted a saint of the British church. There were standing, not many years ago, in a field near the village, two large, but rude, monumental stones, said to have been placed at the heads of the graves of Owain ab Ithel and his consort, and commonly called "the King and Queen stones," but they have of late years been removed.

removed. Tâl y Faen castle, of which there are some remains, was one of the castles belonging to one of the thirteen peers of Glamorgan: it was granted by Sir Robert Fitz Hamon to Sir Richard de Seward, in whose family it continued for many generations, and from whom it passed, by marriage, to the Dukes of Lancaster, and it still forms a part of the domains of that duchy. In a field adjoining the church-yard, on the western side, there is a very large tumulus, of which no traditional account now remains.

Lalyston, or Trêf Lalys, hath its church dedicated to St. Illtyd. This village is said to have taken its name from a person called Lalys, a man eminent in the art of masonry, and who was brought from the Holy Land, about the year 1111, by Richard Granville, Lord of Neath: this man is reported to have built several abbies and churches, with many castles, and other considerable works; and afterwards became architect to King Henry the First.

Llan-Vadog hath its church dedicated to Madog, a saint who lived about the beginning of the sixth century. It is situate upon Bury harbour; and Llan-Vadog Hill, upon which are the remains of a Roman encampment, is a well-known beacon to mariners.

Mr. Edward Williams, a native of this county, thus beautifully describes the same:—

"Glamorgan, boast thy sky serene;
Thy health inspiring gales;
Thy sunny plains, luxuriant green;
Thy graceful mountains airy scene;
Their wild romantic vales."

The following eminent men were natives of or residents in this county:—Mr. Edward Williams, bard (Iolo Morganwg); Richard Price, D.D.; Davydd Hopgyn, bard; Sir Llywelyn Jenkins, Secretary of State to James II.; William Edwards, architect; Saint Çaradoc; Rev. Evan Evans, a dissenting preacher, philosopher, and poet; Ievan Ddu ap Davydd Owain, poet; Robert Thomas, poet; Rev. John Walter, an eminent divine; Llywelyn o Llangewydd, or Llywelyn Sion, poet; Rhŷs Llwyd, poet: Sir Thomas Mansel, Bart. Comptroller of the Household to Queen Anne.

CAERMARTHENSHIRE.

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THE general surface is hilly; the vales for the most part are narrow. The principal rivers are the Tawy and Tâf: the former rises in Cardiganshire, enters Caermarthenshire at its north-eastern corner, and takes its course to the south.

LLANDOVERY,

or Llan-Ym-Ddyfri, in the parish of Llandingad, is supposed to take its name from its situation near the conflux of the rivers Brân and Gwydderig, and is about a quarter of a mile from the Tywi. In Leland's time "it had but one street, and that poorly built of thatched houses, with the parish church on a hill, near which several Roman bricks have been found;" it is now considerably improved, consisting of Castle Street, High Street, Lower Street, Queen Street, and Stone Street. This town is doubtless of considerable antiquity, and had its origin in the Roman station, which was at or near Llanfair ar y Brynn, about half a mile from hence: for that the Romans had there a fixed place of residence is sufficiently ascertained by numerous pieces of broken bricks, earthenware, and coins having been discovered there. On a mount between Boran river and Ewenny brook are the remains of a castle, consisting of two sides and a deep trench; but by whom built is uncertain. In 1113 we find it in the possession of Richard de Pws, and in 1116 (or about that time) besieged by Gruffydd ap Rhŷs, who, after burning the outworks, raised the siege, and retired with considerable loss. Subsequent to this many trifling circumstances occurred; but the last action (mentioned by Caradoc) took place in 1213 or 1214, when Rhŷs, son of Gruffydd ap Rhŷs, with an army of Welsh and Normans, encamped before this place, with an intention to besiege it, but the governor thought it more prudent to surrender, on condition that the garrison should be permitted to march out unmolested, which was granted. According to tradition it was destroyed by the forces under Oliver Cromwell. This was the residence and supposed birthplace of the Rev. Rhŷs Prichard, A.M. a celebrated Welsh poet: he was vicar of the parish of Llandingad in 1602, Chancellor of Saint David's in 1626, and died in 1644.

On leaving Llandovery, and at the distance of about eight miles, we pass on our left the town of Llangadock, having its church dedicated to Saint Cadog, and situate between the rivers Brân and Sawthy. The town is small, but lately much improved in its buildings: it is said to have been once a large town, and Thomas Beck, Bishop of Saint David's, made its church collegiate in 1233 (according

ing to others in 1283), to the honour of Saint Maurice and his companions and St. Thomas the Martyr; but if ever this took effect, it did not (as Tanner says) continue so long. In the neighbourhood was an ancient castle, now entirely demolished. Bledri, the son of Cedifor, the great Lord of Gwydigada and Elfed, died in 1119, and was buried here.

About 12 miles from Llandovery, in our road, is Llandilo-Vawr, the church of which is dedicated to Saint Teilo: it is a considerable market town, pleasantly situated on a rising ground by the Tawy, over which is a handsome stone bridge. In 1213 Rhŷs Fychan, being fearful that Foulke, Lord of Cardigan, would dispossess him of this town, caused it to be burnt to the ground, and then had himself recourse to the woods and desert places in its vicinity. A decisive battle is said to have been fought here between Edward the First and Llywelyn the Great, in which, by Mortimer's manœuvre, the Welsh were defeated. About three miles distant lie the ruins of Cappel yr Ywen, formerly a chapel-of-ease under the mother church. About five miles south is a chalybeate spring, called Ffynnon Craig Ceffyl, and there are several others in the neighbourhood.

One mile from Llandilo-fawr is Dinefawr Castle, the principal seat of the Rice family, lately ennobled by the title of Lord Dinefawr, or Dynevor. It occupies an eminence above the town, covering several undulating hills with its rich groves and verdant lawns. The castle was built by Rhŷs ap Theodore in the time of William the Conqueror, who removed hither from Caermarthen, the former residence of the Princes of South Wales. Its original form was circular, fortified with a double moat and rampart, having on the left side of the ascent a bulwark, a large arch belonging to which fell down several years ago. South of the castle are shewn the ruins of a chapel between two round towers, and on the east side a dungeon at the bottom of a ruined tower. In the year 1145, Cadell, the son of Gruffydd ap Rhŷs, took this fortress from Gilbert Earl of Clare. Giraldus mentions it being demolished in 1194, but soon after rebuilt with its ruins, and consequently made to occupy a smaller extent of ground. After this, in 1204, we find it in the possession of Rhŷs, the son of Gruffydd ap Rhŷs; but in 1257, Rhŷs Fychan, having procured assistance, marched with an English army from Carmarthen against this fortress, which valiantly held out until Llewelyn ap Gruffydd came to its relief, when a battle ensued, wherein the English lost two thousand men, besides many barons and knights that were taken prisoners. The demolition of this castle was completed in the civil wars: two batteries failed to make any impression on its garrison, but a third being erected, it was reduced. The ruins were granted to Sir Rice ap Thomas by Henry the Seventh, for the great assistance given him on his landing at Milford Haven, and afterwards at Bosworth Field, which procured Henry the crown of England. Henry

the Eighth, on a false charge of treason, seized this castle, and again restored it to an ancestor of the present Lord Dinefawr, who is a lineal descendant from Urien Reged, Lord of Kidwelly, Carunllon, and Yskenen, in South Wales. In the centre, amid rich groves and verdant lawns, stands the house, a plain modern structure, but the scenery about it is beautiful, consisting of a profusion of woods, principally of fine oaks and Spanish chesnuts, descending abruptly to the bed of the river Tawy, where all the striking beauties of this enchanting tract may be enjoyed in full display of romantic scenery, while the high chain of rude and unequal mountains, crossing the road at right angles, form three separate vales, widely differing from each other in form and character. The Eisteddfod, a triennial assembly of the bards, was holden here in the reign of its ancient princes.

Three miles eastward from Llandilo-fawr is Carreg Cennin Castle, *i. e.* "the Castle on the Rock by the Cennin," a small river which runs at the foot of the rock on which the castle was erected. It is strongly situate on the point of a high craggy insulated rock, three sides of which are wholly inaccessible, and surrounded at moderate but equal distances with mountains, the roads leading to the castle being scarcely passable. The fortress, of which a great part is still extant, does not occupy an acre of ground, the rocks scarcely admitting of that extent; but the ruins are extremely high, and when seen from the road between Bettws and Llandeilo appear in a degree of magnificence uncommonly singular. This was doubtless an ancient British building, and a proof of its great antiquity may be deduced from its plan, for, on approaching to it from the east side, we do not find the gateway, as is usual, between two towers in front, but a strong covered way on the brink of the rock, which leads to the gates on the south side. The well in this castle is also of a singular kind; for, instead of a perpendicular descent, here is a large winding cave bored through the solid rock, with an arched passage on the northern edge of the precipice, running along the outside of the fortress, with an easy slope to the beginning of the perforation, which is in length 84 feet: this perforation is of various dimensions; the breadth of it, at the beginning, is 12 feet, and in some places less than three, but at a medium it may be estimated to be from five to six feet, and the height of the cave ten feet, but varying, so that the whole descent through the rock is 150 feet. Notwithstanding all this extravagant labour, there is scarcely water suffieient for a small family, nor does there appear any other resource within the precincts of the castle. Here history appears to have been very deficient, for there is no account or mention of this castle till 1284, when, according to Caradoc, Rhŷs Fychan won it from the English, to whom, a short time before, it was privately delivered by his mother. In 1773 some coins were turned up here by the plough, and since variously misrepresented, but the number is ascertained to have been about two hundred angular pieces of

of silver, containing inscriptions for Elizabeth, James, and Charles I. the whole of which were found near the foot of the precipice before described, consequently we may conclude they are the vestiges of the civil dissensions of the 17th century. The castle is supposed to have been built by Goronw, Lord of Is Cennin, one of the knights of King Arthur's round table. Near here is Cwrt Brynn y Beirdd, formerly a princely bardic residence.

At Abergwili, on the road from Llandilo-fawr to Caermarthen, tradition says that there were formerly several chapels, of which one only now remains, called Llanfihangel Uwch Gwili, and the ruins of another.

CAER FYRDDIN, CAERMARTHEN, OR CAER FYRDDIN,

boasts of very high antiquity, and is a town connected with classical history as well as British superstition. Here the Romans had a station, called Maridunum, of which little more is known. It is beautifully situate on the banks of the navigable river Tawy, and to the northward of a spacious bay to which it gives name, opposite the Bristol channel. It is said to have been anciently esteemed the capital of all Wales. Giraldus says that it was a place of great strength, and fortified with brick walls, which are yet visible near the river. It is now the capital of the county, and was formerly the residence of the Princes of South Wales, and where the Ancient Britons held their parliaments, with the Chancery and Exchequer for South Wales, until that nation was formed into a principality by the crown of England. In the 38th of Henry the Eighth Caermarthen was created a borough town. The castle is situate on a rock commanding the river Tawy, but the gate only remains, forming at present the county gaol, with some remnants of the town wall about the east-gate. Of its origin we have no account until 1113, when, according to Caradoc, the following were nominated to defend the castle in turns, viz. Owen ap Caradoc, Rhytherch ap Theodore, and Meredith ap Rhytherch, each commanding for a fortnight. Soon after this regulation, Rhŷs ap Gruffydd gained possession of the town, and burnt the castle. In 1144 it was rebuilt by Gilbert Earl of Clare; but in the year 1215 it was, by Llewelyn's orders, levelled to the ground. Without the town stands the church (dedicated to Saint Peter), a large handsome building, having a fine-toned organ, and many good monuments; but the most remarkable is one erected to the memory of Sir Rhŷs ap Thomas, who, as before mentioned, assisted Henry VII. in his landing at Milford Haven, and joined his forces to Henry's, and bravely fought for him in Bosworth Field. In the suburbs, but further east than the church, are some ruins of a priory for Black Monks, founded before 1148, and valued at about £164 per annum. It is dedicated to Saint John the Evangelist, and was granted (35th Henry VIII.) to Richard Andrews and Nicholas Temple.

Temple. Here was also a house of Grey Friars, under the custody of Bristol, which after the dissolution was granted (34th Henry VIII.) to Thomas Lloyd, and in the 5th of Edward VI. to Sir Thomas Gresham. Caermarthen is at present a very respectable town, both in appearance and trade, containing a number of well-built houses, besides many independent and genteel families who have made it their residence, which put it almost on a level with some of our best English towns. It exports a great quantity of oats and butter to London and Bristol, stone and coal to Norfolk, bark to Ireland, and oak timber to some of the principal dock-yards in the kingdom. Its imports are fruit from Lisbon, bale goods and hardware from British ports, and a great quantity of timber from Norway and Russia. The iron works, tin works, and a lead mine in the neighbourhood, contribute likewise to increase its wealth and swell its importance.—A Letter by the Rev. W. H. Barker, vicar in 1811, says—"Saint Peter's is the name of the parish, which is frequently called Caermarthen, from the town in which it is situate; every military station in Welsh was called Gaer; if walled the town was so called, and, for distinction, some epitaph usually added. In the centre of the town stands the town-hall, close to which are houses, which shew the fabric of St. Mary's church, not used for religious purposes since the dissolution of religious houses; the heads of saints, &c. are still visible on the timbers of the roofs. Close to the north of the town are the remains of an old Roman Prætorium, in a field called the Bullrack (Bulwark), where was the Gaër, or Roman camp: coins of the lower empire are frequently dug up in the gardens; some Roman altars have been also met with, and I have one, a large tube, with part of an inscription, now in my possession." Here (according to Camden) was born the British Tages, or Merlin, or as the British writers call him Merddyn Emrys, who flourished about A. D. 480. The first historian that mentions him is Nennius, yet he says nothing of his fabulous birth; but tells us his mother was a Nun, in a nunnery here, the scite of which was shewn to Leland: his father was a Roman Consul in the time of Vortigern. All our Monkish historians add a long fable to his birth, besides creating him a prophet or magician: but Humphrey Llwyd represents him as a man of extraordinary learning and prudence for the time in which he lived; and his skill in the mathematics gave rise to a certain fable, which has been transmitted to posterity. All we know of the writings ascribed to him are certain alleged prophecies. On a hill about one mile from this town, the inhabitants shew a grove called Merlin's, and a spring of water forming a lake. Here he is said to have frequently retired, to pursue his studies in solitude. The monument erected here to the memory of the late General Sir Thomas Picton, the renowned Welsh hero, was thrown open to the public view on Tuesday, the 5th of August, 1828. The structure in its general design, particularly the shaft and entablature, resembles

resembles Trajan's Pillar at Rome, and from the durability of the material (black marble), promises to survive the wreck of as many ages as that mouldering but interesting relic of antiquity. On the south side of the monument is the following inscription:—

Sir THOMAS PICTON,
Knight Grand Cross of the Military Order of the Bath,
Of the Portuguese Order of the Tower and Sword, and of other Foreign Orders,
Lieutenant-General in the British Army, and Member of Parliament for the Borough of Pembroke,
Born at Poyston, in Pembrokeshire, in August, 1758,
Died at Waterloo, on the 18th of June, 1815,
Gloriously fighting for his Country and the Liberties of Europe,
Having honourably fulfilled, on Behalf of the Public, various Duties in various Climates,
And having achieved the highest Military Renown in the Spanish Peninsula,
He thrice received the unanimous Thanks of Parliament;
And a Monument, erected by the British Nation, in Saint Paul's Cathedral, commemorates his Death and Services.
His grateful Countrymen, to perpetuate past and incite to future Exertions,
Have raised this Column under the Auspices of his Majesty King George the Fourth,
To the Memory of a Hero and a Welshman.
The Plan and Design of this Monument was given by our Countryman,
John Nash, Esq. F. R. S. Architect to the King.
The Ornaments were executed by E. H. Bailey, Esq. R. A.
And the whole was erected by Mr. Daniel Mainwaring, of the Town of Caermarthen, in the Years 1826 and 1827.

On the north side is a translation of the above in Welsh. The subscribers have transferred their property in the monument to the corporation, to whom it now of right appertains.

About 7 miles beyond Caermarthen is the village of Saint Clare, where was anciently a castle, which was gone to ruin in Leland's time. Here was likewise a priory of monks, cell to the Cluniac Abbey of St. Martin de Campis, in Paris, founded in the year 1291, and given by Henry the Sixth to All Souls College, Oxford. Five miles from St. Clare stood Ty-Gwyn, or White House, the ancient palace of Howel Ddâ, the first sovereign of all Wales. Here in 942 he sent for the Archbishop of St. David's, with the rest of the bishops and principal clergy to the number of 140, besides the barons and principal nobility. Thus collected in the palace of Ty-Gwyn, they passed the Lent in prayer and fasting, imploring Divine assistance in the design of reforming the laws. At the close of the season the king chose twelve of the gravest and most experienced men of this assembly, who, in concert with Blegored, a very learned man and able lawyer, he commissioned to examine the old laws, in order to retain the good and abrogate those that were improper or unnecessary. The commission being executed, the new laws were publicly read and proclaimed; three copies were accordingly written, one for the king's own use, the second to be laid up in his palace of Aberffraw, in North Wales, and the third at Dinefawr, in South Wales, that

that all the Welsh provinces may have access to them; and, as a further confirmation of the whole, the king with the archbishop went to Rome, and obtained of the Pope a solemn ratification of the same, which continued in force till the conquest of Wales in 1282 by Edward the First. ' Mr. Warrington says—" the death of this amiable prince, who had long enjoyed the mild honours resulting from peace and the public esteem, spread universally the deepest sorrow. As a great memorial of his virtues, posterity has given him the surname of Ddâ, or ' the Good :' his code of laws is the best eulogium to his memory, and raises him as much above the rest of the Cambrian princes as peace and gentleness of manners and a regular state are preferable to the evils inseparable from war, to the fierceness of uncivilized life, and to the habits of a wild independancy. From this comparison it is the author's meaning to except those British and Cambrian princes who defended their country from the rapacity or ambition of foreign enemies, a conduct than which nothing can be more meritorious, or scarcely any thing have a higher claim on the respect and gratitude of mankind."

Three miles south of Saint Clare is Llacharn, a small village situate at the mouth of the river Tâf: it is irregularly built on a low bank of the estuary, with a ferry to Llanstephan. Llacharn Castle is a fine old ruin, and is recorded either to have been built by Guido de Brian in the reign of King Henry the Third, or to have been rebuilt by him, as it is said that this castle was destroyed by Llywelyn ap Iorwerth in 1215: if so, Guido de Brian rebuilt it in the following reign. The remains of an ivy-clad gateway and various other ruins of the castle are still standing in a good state of preservation. It still exhibits the fragments of an ancient keep, situate on an elevation, and surrounded by a deep moat. The cloak or mantle of Sir Guido de Brian the younger, Lord Marcher in the reign of King John, richly embroidered in purple and gold, is still preserved in the church. Josiah Tucker, D. D. Dean of Gloucester, was born here, and died in 1729, aged 87: he was a celebrated political writer and able divine. There are in this parish the remains of a ruin, now called Roche's Castle, which tradition reports to be those of a monastery, though it is not ascertained when it was built, or to what order it belonged. The ancient appellation of the parish, Llacharn, or Tâl Llacharn, *i. e.* " Above the great Lake," has probably been corrupted into its present name of Laugharne from that of a General William Laugharne, who, in the year 1644, besieged and took the castle of Llacharn. Tradition says that the parish church formerly stood upon a farm called Croseland, or Christ's Land, but no vestige now remains, if any such edifice had been there.

About three miles eastward from the last-mentioned place is Llanstephan, having its church dedicated to Saint Stephen.—Llanstephan Castle

Castle, which crowns the summit of a bold hill, hath its precipitous base washed by the sea; its broken walls enclose a large area, and it is encircled with several ramparts, appearing to have possessed considerable strength. The whole affords a very picturesque appearance, exhibiting a wide estuary, with a rocky promontory opposite, and the boundless sea. The village is neat, and well situated in a woody valley, commanding an extensive view of the neighbouring estuary of the Tâf, near its conjunction with the sea. The castle was built probably by the Normans before 1215, but afterwards fell into the possession of Llywelyn. Here is a well, called Saint Anthony's well, walled with stone and mortar, and over it is a niche, where it is supposed a figure of the saint was placed. Great cures are said to have been performed by the water of this well formerly, but it has not been much resorted to of late years. Here was a chapel, called in ancient records "Marble Church," which originally belonged to the church of Llanstephan; but the dissenters having possessed themselves of it during the civil wars, have retained it ever since.

Kydweli, or Cŷdweli, hath its church dedicated to Saint Mary: the edifice consists of one aisle, with a steeple and spire 165 feet high. Kydweli is a small neat town, a little distance from the coast; it is divided into what is called the Old and New Town, and only separated by a bridge over the Wendroth. The old town (in Leland's time) was well walled, with three gates, having over one the town-hall, and under it a prison. In 990 this place was almost destroyed by Edwin ap Einion, and afterwards (in 1093) it suffered considerably by the Normans, who destroyed some of the principal houses, and made a dreadful massacre of the inhabitants. The town is very much decayed, but the castle is well worthy of observation, placed on an elevated mount above a small river, and remarkable for the perfect uniformity of its four round towers. The building is attributed to King John, as is the town, though unconnected, and said to belong to the Duchy of Lancaster, from which it derives some privileges. The castle is neat, and well supported by a fair and double wall. Alice de Londres, wife of the Duke of Lancaster, lived some time in this fortress, which she repaired; but it afterwards received more alterations, in expectation of Henry the Seventh coming into Wales. By the new town is an ordinary harbour, nearly choked with sand, so that only small vessels are able to approach its quay. Here was a priory of black monks, founded by Roger, Bishop of Salisbury, in 1130, as a cell to Sherburn Abbey, and valued at £22.

On leaving Kydweli we proceed northerly, and at the distance of eight miles, pass through Caermarthen, 20 miles beyond which we arrive at Newcastle-in-Emlyn, or Dinas Emlyn, on the river Tawy: it contains nothing remarkable, except the site of an ancient castle, but of the superstructure thereof there is not a fragment remaining.

In

In 1215 we find it recorded of this fortress, that Llywelyn ap Iorwerth had won the castle, and subdued Camaes. The castle was one of the principal residences of Sir Rhŷs ap Thomas; and some coins and other vestiges of a Roman station are said to have been discovered here. The situation of this town and the road to it from Caermarthen is in general dreary and mountainous, which formerly subjected the traveller to considerable danger, particularly from the numerous and imperceptible turf-pits with which the neighbourhood abounded; but it is now much improved.

Kryg-y-Dyrn is a remarkable tumulus in Trelech parish, being in circumference sixty paces and in height six yards. It rises from an easy ascent, and is hollow on the top, gently inclining from the circumference to the centre. This heap is chiefly composed of small stones covered with turf, and may probably be called a carnedd. On the top, in a small cavity, is a large flat stone of an oval form, about three yards long and twelve inches thick. On searching under it was found a cistvaen, or stone chest, four feet long and three broad, composed of seven stones. About the outside, and within the chest, some rough pieces of brick were found, also pieces of wrought free-stone, with a great quantity of human bones. It is supposed to have been the burial-place or sepulchre of some British chief before the Roman conquest. "That it is older than Christianity (says the learned Camden) there is no room to doubt."

Bwydd-Arthur, or "Arthur's Table," is on a mountain near Cil-ŷ-maen-llwyd, consisting of circular stones or monuments; the diameter of the circle is about twenty yards, and is composed of extraordinarily rude stones, pitched on their ends at unequal intervals, of three, four, six, and eight feet in height; they were originally 23 in number, but now there are only 15 standing, eight of the smallest being carried away for various purposes by the residents of the vicinity. The entrance for above three yards is guarded on each side by small stones, contiguous to each other, and opposite to this passage, at the distance of about 300 yards, stand three more, considerably larger and more rude than the preceding.—This country abounds with small ancient forts, camps, and tumuli or barrows. About the year 1692 several gold coins were found in different parts of this county; and in the parish of Cynwyl Caeo, a few years ago, a beautiful gold torques, now in the possession of John Johnes, Esq. was ploughed up by his servants in the common field, the extremity of which was adorned with a curious figure of a serpent of the same pure metal. Another torques, adorned with the figure of a dolphin of the same material, was dug up not a long time ago near the same spot; and Roman ornaments, though never searched for, are frequently discovered. In digging for gravel to repair the roads, a common coarse pebble was found here, with an amethyst in the middle of its upper surface, which on examination proved to be a very valuable antique of Diana;

Diana; it is now also in the possession of John Johnes, Esq.—At a place called Hên Llan, in this parish, there is a Roman causeway, called by the inhabitants Sarn Helen, the usual appellation in the principality for Roman roads, in honour of Helena, the mother of Constantine the Great, whom they represent as a native of Wales.

Some vestiges of the chapel at Pump Saint, which was of considerable magnitude, remained within the memory of man: and in the north-east extremity of the parish was anciently another chapel at Court y Cadno, *i. e.* "Fox Hall," but all traces of it are now obliterated: it is beautifully situate near the rivers Coethi and Twrch. In the heroic elegies of Llywarch Hên, a celebrated poet, who flourished from about the year 520 to 630, Caeo is called Caer Caeo, which seems to imply, that it was then considered as a city, or, at least, as a well-fortified place: and, from the magnitude of the church, it is conjectured, that some monastic or ecclesiastical institution was established here in the middle centuries. At the mines within this parish, and which were doubtless worked by the Romans, is a well of remarkably cold water, issuing from a rock, and considered formerly as infallibly efficacious in rheumatic complaints. Near Briw Nant, the seat of the Rev. Mr. Lloyd, and on the estate of John Johnes, Esq. of Dôl Coethi, are two sulphureous springs, which are supposed to be superior to the wells in the counties of Brecknock and Radnor, but they are scarcely known, and remain in a very neglected state. A celebrated mineralogist, from an experiment made upon one of them, found that the water was impregnated with a greater quantity of sulphur than any spring that he had visited. Near Pump Saint, is a chalybeate spring of great celebrity, for the many extraordinary cures which it is reported to have effected.

At Maes Llan Wrthwl, in this parish, a great battle was fought between the Romans and the ancient Britons, and a Roman general was interred there. Under the threshold of the door, at the seat of J. Bowen, Esq. are the neglected fragments of a stone, with an inscription, given by Camden, at length. There are several tumuli in the neighbourhood, particularly near a bridge called Pont Rhŷd Remus, *i. e.* "the bridge on Remus's ford." Roman bricks are often dug up in the adjacent fields. Tradition says, that a large town, called Y Dref Gôch yn Neheubarth, *i. e.* "the Red town in South Wales," was built here by the Roman soldiery, and that the houses were principally constructed of brick. Near the summit of a hill, where at present there is no water, are the ruins of a mill, called Melin Milwyr, *i. e.* "the Soldier's Mill:" the traces of an aqueduct are observed near the spot. The water was raised with immense labour, and brought over the highest hills for many miles, and passed over the excavated mountain, where they dug for ore, in order to wash away the dross in the manner described by Pliny. It is hardly credible, that a stream of the magnitude of the Coethi could be thus raised and carried

carried so prodigious a distance over steep precipices; but the vestiges of the work are still visible, and excite every intelligent person's admiration. Considerable quantities of gold are supposed to have been obtained, of old time, in these mines.

In the parish of Eglwys Cymmyn, *i. e.* "the Communion Church," on the old chalice for communion service is inscribed in old letters—"Poculum Ecclesiæ de Eglon Skymine, 1574." Skymine signifies "bleak," and the church is situate high and is bare of trees." Here is a place called Pwll Cogan, consisting of a few houses, which is remarkable only for the mention of it in Sir John Pryse's *History of the Welsh Wars.* There are also vestiges of a castle or fortification in a field called Pen-coed, which is from thence called Castle Park; and another place called Peace Park, from the circumstance of a peace having been concluded there, and which is also mentioned by Sir John Pryse. Here are also two streams which, after a subterraneous passage for some distance, empty themselves into the bay of Caermarthen.

According to tradition, the old parish church of Llan-Arthne was carried away by the overflowing of the river Tywi, and the site thereof to this day is called Hên Llan, or "the Old Church."—The ancient chapel called Cappel Ddewi, on the banks of the Tywi, is nearly in ruins.

In the churchyard of the parish of Llanfihangel-ar-ararth, close to the west end of the church, is a Roman monumental stone with an inscription. There are also the ruins of a chapel, called Pencader Chapel, which has been in a neglected state for nearly a century.—There are three tumuli in this parish.

In the parish of Llan-gyndeyrn there is a ruinous place adjoining the church, called Hên Plâs, or "the Old Mansion," the supposed residence of an ancient potentate. There were two chapels in this parish, one called Cappel Evan, now a farm-house, the other Cappel Dyddgen, the roof of which is gone, but the walls are up, and its present use is that of a hovel for cattle: the late tenant would not plough up the chapel yard.—The seat of Miss Gwynne, called Glyn Abbey, is supposed to have been an abbey or religious edifice formerly; but the house having been completely altered, no appearance of such a structure now remains.

In the parish of Llan-Gunog is a school, which tradition says was founded in consequence of a cure effected on one of the Vaughans of Dêrllys by a fountain called New Well, which springs near the site on which the school now stands. This seems to carry with it a probability of truth, as upon a stone over the entrance of the school-room is engraved—"This is a Chârity School for ever, built at the recommendation of the Archbishop of Canterbury, by the lord, freeholders, and inhabitants of the manor of Penrin, A. D. 1705.

The parish church of Tal y Llychau was built out of the ruins of the old abbey, about fifty years ago. There were formerly five chapels

chapels in this parish, which is generally called Talley. The abbey was a Premonstratensian Abbey, founded by Rhese son of Griffith, Prince of South Wales, who died in 1197.—It was dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary and John the Baptist.—There are now considerable remains of it in the church-yard. At the dissolution it had eight canons.

Bach-Ynys is situate on the river Bary. This island is thought to have been the place where Saint Piro, about A.D. 513, built a monastery, which he himself was first abbot of, and wherein he was succeeded by the elder Sampson.

Cîl-y-Maenllwyd hath its church dedicated to Saint Philip and Saint James. Here is a chapel in sufficient repair, called Castell Dwy Rhann. Tradition says that there was formerly a castle near the chapel.

Cynwyl.—The vestiges of an old chapel are still discernible on the farm of Troed-y-Rhiw, in the northern part of this parish; the wall of the churchyard is easily traced; the adjacent field is called Caer-Hên-Eglwys: it is supposed to have been defaced in the reign of Henry the Eighth, or perhaps sooner. The country here is full of deep dingles and dorsal hills, all of which converge in a point at Convil. The chalybeate spring of Ffôsana is reported to have done wonders: its virtues are very efficacious at this time, but the natives prefer resorting to more fashionable though less sanative waters: its constituent parts have been analyzed.—An unnoticed but very remarkable piece of antiquity is to be seen in the north-west extremity of this parish, viz. a druidical temple, or observatory. On the sideland summit of a high mountain, facing the south, is a centre stone of huge magnitude, being from 10 to 15 tons, placed horizontally, oblong, and 2 feet thick, supported by four uprights, one of which has declined from its original position, and sunk deeper into the ground. Four other similar but smaller stones of about 4 or 5 tons surround it; but these are all slipt from their respective fulcra, and lie now in a shelving position. Scattered about, at various and irregular distances around, are several smaller stones, disturbed and broken by the masons for the purpose of building. A crûg or tumulus of large circumference adjoins the temple: a wide flat turbary surrounds it. The large stones are not the stones of the country; they are hard, rough, flaky, brown, large-grained, and seemingly weather-worn.—In the same parish is "The Line," a mile and quarter long and about 17 feet high, which is said to have been thrown up by Henry Earl of Richmond when on his way from Milford Haven to meet Richard the Third.

Saint Ishmael.—This parish is situate on the banks of the navigable river Tywi. There are some old walls, overgrown with ivy, on a farm called Pen Allt, which, tradition says, was formerly a monastery. The parish church is built upon a rock near the sea-shore,

shore, and at high spring tides the waves wash within thirty yards of its foundation. The small village, called Ferryside, is much resorted to for the purpose of sea-bathing. About a mile from the village is Iscoed, the seat of Sir William Mansell, Baronet. The chapel-of-ease, called Llan-Saint-Cappel, or Halkin Church, is in good repair, and duly served.

Llan-Ddarog hath its church dedicated to Saint Twrog, who lived about the latter end of the fifth or beginning of the sixth century. There are the remains of an old chapel in this parish, called Saint Bernard's Chapel, and which has been in ruins for the last 150 years.

Llan-Dyfaelog hath its church dedicated to Saint Tyfaelog, of whom no mention is made in history. About 30 years ago there was a chapel in the lordship of Cloigin, being extra-parochial, and in which no service was performed, except that of marriage: at present not a vestige remains of it more than the foundations, the stones being all carried off by the neighbours for their own private use. A farm-house near the church, called Nant-Llan, is generally supposed to have been a monastery. There is a spring of clear water on the tenement of Pistyll, in the lordship of Cloigin, called Pistyll Gwynn, famed in the memory of old people as a cure for sore eyes; but it is now disused and unfrequented. This is a very pleasant part of the county. Salmon, sewin, and other fish are had here in great abundance.

Llan-Dyfeisant is situate on the banks of the river Tywi. Part of the town of Llan-Deilo-Fawr is in this parish. There is no mineral spring in this parish; but it may not be unworthy of remark, that there is a spring which ebbs and flows every day (the vulgar opinion says) "with the tide," with which, however, it has no connexion. It is conceived to be a mere natural syphon in the bowels of the earth, which is not an uncommon phenomenon. This spring, or rather the prill which issues from it, is called Nant-y-Rhybo, signifying "the Bewitched Brook," the country-people in the dark ages ascribing every thing to witchcraft which they could not otherwise account for. This spring was noticed by Giraldus Cambrensis, and his account is copied by various tourists. Dinefawr Castle is in this parish, near the church. A few years ago, in levelling uneven ground in the churchyard, were discovered the foundations of some Roman walls; and as the north-west corner of the church is placed on the fragment of a Roman edifice, it is not improbable that the church might have been built on the ruins of a Roman temple. Twenty years ago, a pot of Roman coins was found in the parish, within 300 yards of the church; a few of which were in the possession of the Rev. Thomas Beynon.

Llan-Egwad hath its church dedicated to Egwad, a saint who lived about the close of the seventh century: it is intersected by the

the river Coethi, which here falls into the Tywi. There were formerly several chapels, but of which no vestiges remain at present, excepting of one, called Cappel-Gwilym-Foethus, near Coethi bridge, and which has been in ruins more than a century.

Llan-Elly hath its church dedicated to Saint Elliw. The chapels of Berwick and Ddewi are in ruins. The chapel of Saint John has been repaired by subscription, and is now used by the methodists.

Llanfair-y-Bryn.—The church consists of one large circle, and (what is rather singular) is situated in the parish of Llan-Dingad, and about a mile distant from the nearest part of its own parish: it has a tower, which is about 60 feet high. It is also particularly worthy of notice, that the church is built on or near the site of a Roman station, as Roman antiquities have frequently been found in the neighbourhood. There are extensive lead mines in Rhandir Abbot, about 6 or 7 miles north of the church. The principal seats in this parish are Glanbrân Park, the residence of Sackville Gwynne, Esq. and Cynghordy, the residence of the Rev. Pryce Jones.

Llanfihangel-Aber-Bythych hath its chapel dedicated to Saint Michael. The parish derives its name from its locality, being situate at the confluence of a brook called Bythych with the river Tywi; part of it lies within the Duchy of Lancaster. There is an open mountain in this parish, which extends to three other parishes, called Mynydd Mawr, *i. e.* "the Great Mountain." Golden Grove, the ancient seat of the Vaughans Earls of Carbery, and now the property of the Right Hon. Lord Cawdor, is situate in this parish. Oliver Cromwell, in his way to besiege Pembroke Castle, came suddenly across the country with a troop of horse, to Golden Grove, with an intent to seize the person of Richard Earl of Carbery, who was a royalist. The Earl, having fortunately had notice of his approach, retired to a sequestered farm-house among the hills; and the Protector, having dined at Golden Grove with the Countess of Carbery, in the afternoon pursued his march to Pembroke.—The great Jeremy Taylor, D. D. Chaplain to King Charles the First, and afterwards Lord Bishop of Down and Connor, lived several years at Golden Grove during the usurpation, under the protection of this loyal Earl, to whom some of his works are dedicated.—There is a small British encampment now remaining, pretty perfect, in this parish.

Llanfihangel Rhôs y Corn. It is supposed that there was a chapel here formerly, as there is a well, called Ffynnon Cappel, and near it an old yew tree. A turbary extends close to the bank whereon the church stands.

Llan Gathan hath its church dedicated to Cathan, a saint and founder of some churches in Wales about the commencement of the seventh century. There are the vestiges of an old chapel, within half a mile of the church, called Cappel Pen Arw; near to which there is a spring, formerly supposed to have been of great efficacy in curing sore

sore eyes and rheumatism. The castle of Drys Llwyn and the celebrated Grongar Hill are also situate in this parish.

Llan Llwny hath its church dedicated to Llonio, a saint of the congregation of Illtyd, in the middle of the sixth century. It is situate on the south bank of the river Teifi. On a farm called Maes Nonny, *i. e.* "the nun's field," are the remains of a nunnery, where is also a tumulus, called Y Castell, or the Castle. Here is likewise a spring, called Ffynnon Nonny, or the Nun's Spring. Near the church are some remains of an old priory, called by the parishioners Briordy. This nunnery or priory are neither of them mentioned in Tanner's *Notitia Monastica.*

Llan Sadwrn hath its church dedicated to Sadwrn, a saint who lived in the latter part of the fifth and beginning of the sixth centuries. There was in this parish a very ancient mansion, called Abermarles, belonging to Sir Rhŷs ap Thomas, Knight of the Garter. It is mentioned in Leland's *Itinerary*, and called "a fair house of old Sir Rees's." Rhŷs ap Grufydd, the grandson of Sir Rhŷs ap Thomas, was attainted of high treason in the reign of King Henry the Eighth, and the estate became forfeited, and was granted by the Crown to Sir Thomas Johnes, Knight. It afterwards came by marriage to Sir Francis Cornwallis, of the county of Suffolk, Knight. His son, Francis Cornwallis, died, leaving four daughters, co-heiresses; the three youngest of whom married and had a numerous issue: the estate was divided among their descendants in the year 1793, and the old mansion, demesne, park, and manor, fell to the lot of the late Viscount Hawarden, of the kingdom of Ireland, who sold them to Captain (afterwards Admiral) Thomas Foley, who has built a handsome house out of the ruins of the old mansion. Admiral Foley, while a post captain, distinguished himself much in the service of his country: he led the fleet to action at the battle of the Nile; he commanded the Britannia in Lord St. Vincent's gallant action; and Lord Nelson shifted his flag on board his ship at the battle of Copenhagen.

Llan Sadwrnon hath its church dedicated to St. Sadwrnon. In this parish are the ruins of Broadway House, formerly the residence of John Powel, Esq. Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, and Keeper of the Great Seal. He was one of the judges who sat on the trial of the seven bishops, and who were sent to the tower by the order of King James the Second, in the year 1688. He was buried in the chancel of the church of Llacharn, where an elegant monument is erected to his memory. He died in 1696, aged 63.—There is also a curious and beautiful cavern in a lime-stone hill here, called Coegen.

Llan Sawyl is pleasantly situated on a branch of the Cocthi. John Thomas Phillips, preceptor to William Duke of Cumberland and several of the royal family, and whose Latin epistles are so well known, was a native of this parish, and left to it £60 per annum by will

will to support a charity school, but he having died before the will was properly executed, the legacy was lost. The Pughs, of Clûn-y-March, have a seat in this parish, and the family has flourished here for many years. Rhŷd Odyn, or "Edwin's Ford," is the seat of the very ancient family of Williams, whose ancestors have at various periods represented the county in parliament for many generations, and so far back as the reign of King Henry the Eighth; it is situate in a delightful vale on the banks of the Coethi. Sir Nicholas Williams, Baronet, one of the maternal ancestors of the present proprietor, erected a singular conical structure called Pigyn Nicholas, *i. e.* "Nicholas's Peak," upon the summit of one of the most elevated hills, which was conspicuous at an immense distance; it had several extensive rooms, and might probably have been used as a fortress: but latterly it was only a place of amusement, and through the inattention of the proprietors was suffered to fall into decay, and is now in ruins.

Llan-y-Crwys.—The small river Twrch flows near the church, and divides this parish from that of Caeo. On a common near its summit is a large long stone, called Hîr Faen, about five yards high, fixed perpendicularly, but for what purpose is not known: it is supposed by some persons to have been erected for a mark or guide for the shepherds or others occasionally traversing the common, though it is most probable that it was put up when a perambulation was made, as it stands where not only the two parishes of Llan-y-Crwys and Cellan join, but also where the two counties of Caermarthen and Cardigan are united.

Myddfai hath its church dedicated to Saint Michael.—Adjacent to the vicarage is a field, called Monks Field: there are also two tumps or hillocks, one near the river Brân, and the other near the river Usk. Here are two king's mills, viz. Cil-Gwynn and Brân; each of which pays £2 annually to the lord of the manor. This parish is surrounded by seven different rivers. There is a parish register at Myddfai, written in Latin during the time of Oliver Cromwell, by which it appears that John Powell, Esq. then married every couple at church; it is signed by himself. On the marriage of the daughters of every freeholder in Myddfai there is a fee of one shilling due to the lord of the manor, in lieu of the first night's lodging with the bride, and which every freeholder in the hundred of Perfedd is obliged to pay according to an ancient custom. In the chancel is a monument to Erasmus Williams, Esq. of Llwyn-y-Wormwood, and a tomb-stone in memory of the Right Rev. Morgan Owen, Lord Bishop of Llandaff, buried in 1644. In the churchyard is interred William Price, Gent. who left legacies to 40 children and grand-children; he was related to Lord Crewe and Admiral Curtis. There are also in the churchyard an yew-tree 25 feet in circumference, and a sycamore whose diameter is 18 feet. This parish is esteemed one of the richest

richest in the county: it abounds with beautiful prospects and the seats of ancient families. Near the ruins of the chapel of Dôl-Hywel thirty small silver coins were discovered in 1807. Myddfai is famous for the physicians, who lived there in the thirteenth century. One of these, Rhiwallon, according to Mr. Owen, lived here early in the thirteenth century, and, in conjunction with his three sons, Cadwgan, Gruffydd, and Einion, drew up a full account of the practice of physic as then known to them; and the original manuscript which he wrote seems to be the one preserved in the Welsh Charity School in London, of which there are several old copies. It is worthy of notice, that the descendants of Rhiwallon, without intermission, continued as practitioners in physic at Myddfai until within the memory of people living in 1809. Phylip Feddyg was one of the long line of practitioners here descended from Rhiwallon: he revised and enlarged the work of his ancestor; and the labours of both of them are preserved, which are not only very curious but also valuable for the knowledge displayed in them. Phylip lived from about 1330 to 1380.

New Church, or Llan-Newydd.—There is a stone pillar on the side of the road near the church with the following inscription, now almost obliterated:—"Sepulchrum Severini filius Severi:" and within a mile eastward of the church, and near the ruins of an old chapel (which is now converted into a barn), there is a circular mound, which has much the appearance of a Roman encampment.

Penboyr hath its church dedicated to Llawddog, a saint who lived about the year 520. Here is a mineral spring lately discovered, called Rebecca's Well, which is much resorted to. In the parish are several tumuli, and also the remains of a Roman encampment, of which the churchyard constitutes a part. Round the churchyard is a well-cemented wall, 7 feet high, built at the expense of the then Rector, the Rev. Thomas Beynon. At a farm, called Bron-Rhufain, a pot of Roman coins was discovered a few years ago; and there are still many traces of Roman vestiges and roads in this and the neighbouring parishes. There is also a chapel here, called Trinity Chapel, in which Divine Service is performed every Sunday in the summer, and every other Sunday in the winter season.

Pen-Bre.—There is an extensive common in this parish, used as a sheep-walk, and at times overflowed by the tide, the right to which is chiefly attached to certain farms in the adjoining parishes: it is computed that from eight thousand to ten thousand sheep depasture there for eight months in the year. The name implies the head or extremity of an isthmus, which this parish forms. The chapel of Llandurry in this parish is served in the summer months; and Trymsaran, an ancient seat of the Mansel family, is situate here, but the title and name are now extinct.

Pencader.—The chapel of this place is now in ruins. Here Henry the

the Second received homage and pledges from Rhŷs, Prince of South Wales in 1163.

The following eminent persons were natives or inhabitants of this county:—Rev. Rhŷs Prichard, A. M.; Merddyn Emrys, astrologer and prophet; Rev. Josiah Tucker, D. D. Dean of Gloucester, and a political writer; Sir John ap Rhŷs, historian; Admiral Foley; John Powell, Esq. Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas, and Keeper of the Great Seal; John Thomas Phillips, poet, preceptor to William Duke of Cumberland; Rhiwallon, a celebrated physician; also his sons, Cadwgan, Gruffydd, and Einion; Phylip Feddyg, a descendant of Rhiwallon, physician; and Sir Rhŷs ap Thomas.

PEMBROKESHIRE

IS well watered by springs rising in the slopes, so as to give a convenient supply to the adjacent lands in general; but some part of the coast is in want of water in the summer season, particularly where limestone is found at a moderate depth. The prevailing state of the air is moist; and there is probably more rain here than in any other part of the kingdom, owing to the insular situation, and the high mountains of Caermarthenshire and Breconshire lying eastward, which stop the current of the clouds brought by the westerly winds from the Atlantic ocean, and occasion thereby torrents of rain to descend in Pembrokeshire whenever those winds prevail. Woods are rather scarce, particularly towards the western coast. The principal river is the Cleddau east and west, which, rising in the northern part, unite at a small distance from Milford Haven.

PEMBROKE,

the county town, consists principally of one long street, reaching from the east gate to the west. The town stands on an arm of Milford Haven, and is built on a rocky situation: it was well walled, and had three gates, of which the eastern is the fairest, having before it a tower and in the entrance a portcullis. In the reign of William Rufus, Arnulph de Montgomery, brother to Robert Earl of Shrewsbury, fortified it with walls, and built the castle (but very meanly) with stakes and green turf. This structure being burnt down, Henry the First rebuilt the castle, which covers the whole of a great mount that descends in a perpendicular cliff on each side, except towards the town, where it is almost encompassed by one of those winding estuaries which, being fed by some small rivers, penetrate into the county towards Milford Haven. The castle stands on a hard rock, and is very large and strong, and double warded. In the outer ward is the

chamber where Henry the Seventh was born, in remembrance of which a chimney hath on it his arms and badge. In the bottom of the large round tower, in the inner ward, is a vault, called Wogan or Hogan, remarkable for its echo. The top of this tower is gathered with a roof like a cone, and covered with a millstone, but the greater part is now in ruins. The remains are of Norman architecture, mixed with early gothic. The walls of the tower are four feet thick, and the diameter of the space within twenty-five; the height from the ground to the dome 75 feet, but visible marks appear within that its height was originally divided by four floors. In 1648, Colonels Langhorn, Powell, and Poynor, being displeased with the parliament, declared for the king, and held this town and castle four months; but Cromwell obliged them to surrender, and afterwards dismantled the castle. Some round stones, which the besiegers fired against the castle to kill the garrison by shivering the pavement, have been found in the area, now a bowling green. Many bones of the besiegers killed in a pursuit, and buried on St. Cyrian's hills, two miles from Tenby, were found in 1761. Here was a priory, founded for Benedictines by the Earl of Pembroke in 1098, afterwards a cell to Saint Alban's, and at its dissolution valued at £57. On a hill south of the town, and in the parish of St. Mary, stands Saint Daniel's church, which is now private property; it has a high and handsome tower and spire, but nothing is known among the inhabitants at what period it became private property; and it has frequently been sold with the adjoining lands. Arnulph Earl of Pembroke, having given the church of Saint Nicholas within the castle of Pembroke, and twenty carucates of land, in the year 1098, to the Abbey of Saint Martin, at Sayes in Normandy, here was shortly after a Benedictine priory erected, dedicated to Saint Nicholas, and made a cell to that foreign abbey. William and Walter Mareschal, Earls of Pembroke, were benefactors to it. King Edward the Third seized it into his hands when he had wars with France, and King Henry the Fourth restored it; but being seized again, it was granted (19th Henry VI.) to Humphrey Duke of Gloucester, who gave it (21st Henry VI.) as a cell to Saint Alban's, and the king confirmed his gift in the twenty-seventh year of his reign. It was granted (37th Henry VIII.) to John Vaughan and Catherine his wife.—There is a building adjoining the churchyard on the east called Monkton Hall, but it is doubtful whether it belonged to the priory: it has the marks of considerable antiquity, and has long been in the possession of the Owens of Orielton, which is in the parish of Saint Nicholas. Here was also a hospital, dedicated to Saint Mary Magdalene, of the yearly value of £1. 6s. 8d. This chapel, which is in the parish of Saint Michael, stands upon the lands of J. Adams, Esq. and is now in ruins.—Near Pembroke is Stackpool Court, the elegant mansion of Lord Cawdor, surrounded with fine plantations; and on the coast contiguous is the chapel

chapel and legendary well of Saint Govin, reputed to be miraculous for the cure of various diseases.

Two miles off is Lamphey, having its church dedicated to Saint Faith. This saint was born at Pais de Gavre, in France, and suffered martyrdom under Dacianus, A. D. 290. Lamphey is a pleasant village, situate on a gentle ascent, but chiefly noticed for the ancient castellated mansion of Lamphey Court, one of the seven palaces of the Bishop of Saint David's, afterwards a seat of the Earl of Essex, and at present tolerably entire, with some features of gothic elegance.

MILFORD HAVEN

appears like an immense lake, formed by a great advance of the sea into the land for the space of about ten miles from the south to Pembroke, beyond which the tide comes up to Carew Castle. It is sufficiently wide and spacious to hold the whole British navy; the spring tides rise here 36 feet, and the neap above 26 feet, so that ships may be sent out of this harbour in an hour's time, and in eight or nine hours be over at Ireland, or the Land's End, and this with almost any wind, day or night. There is no place in Great Britain or Ireland where nature has bestowed more conveniences for the building of ships of war, and for erecting forts, docks, quays, and magazines, than Milford, which has greater extent and depth of water than any other port in the kingdom. There are, besides, several places where forts may be erected at a very small expense, which would render it secure from any attack of an enemy.

On leaving Pembroke, we proceed in a north-easterly direction, and, at the distance of four miles, pass Carew Castle, in the parish of Carew, or Caer Yw, which hath its church dedicated to St. John the Baptist. The castle is situate on a gentle eminence above an arm of Milford Haven. Its remains indicate it to have been a stately fortress and the work of different ages: the north side of the castle exhibits the mode of building in the time of Henry the Eighth, but scarcely castellated; from the level of this side the windows are square, and of grand dimensions, projecting in large bows, and internally richly ornamented with a chimney-piece of Corinthian columns, which appear among the latest decorations of this magnificent edifice. The great hall, built in the decorated Gothic style, measuring 80 feet by 30, is much dilapidated, but still a noble relic of antique grandeur: the other parts of the building are of a more remote date, and most of the walls seem remarkably thick and of solid masonry. It was formerly the property of Gerald de Carrio and his descendants, until Edmund mortgaged the castle to Sir Rhŷs ap Thomas. It was afterwards forfeited to Henry the Eighth, who granted it to Sir John Perrot, but it was soon afterwards purchased by Sir John Carew, kinsman and heir of Sir Edmund, to whom King Charles the First restored the fee-simple and inheritance, and from whom it descended to the present

present owner. It was, according to Leland, rebuilt by Rhŷs ap Thomas in the reign of Henry the Seventh, consisting of a range of apartments, erected round a quadrangle, with a round tower at each corner. The north has a noble hall, 120 feet by 20, built by Sir John Perrot, who entertained here the Duke of Ormond in the year 1553, and afterwards retired to it at the expiration of his deputyship in Ireland. On the west side of the gateway are the arms of England, of the Duke of Lancaster, and of the Carew family, with an elegant room contiguous.

Seven miles south-east of Carew is the town of Tenby, or Dinbych y Pysgod, singularly situated on the steep ascent of a long and narrow rock, with the bay on one side, and the western coast on the other, being only divided by a narrow tract of land occasionally overflowed by the sea. The extraordinary intermixture of wood, rocks, and houses, together with the lofty spire of the church, dedicated to St. Mary, give the place a very romantic appearance; but the extensive sea views have a still more pleasing effect. The beauty of its situation, and its fine sands, have exalted Tenby from an obscure seaport to a considerable town, where the influx of company is often very great, in consequence of which it has received great improvement, and is embellished with several good modern buildings and a commodious hotel: the sands are pleasant, and the conveniences for bathing are excellent, besides the hot and cold baths of Sir William Paxton on a grand scale. The town has been well walled, with strong gates, each having a portcullis, and that leading to Caermarthen being circled on the outside, with an embattled but opened roof tower, after the manner of Pembroke. It has of late years become a place of resort as a watering place, and seems to bear the bell from most places of that description in Wales: during the summer months the influx of strangers is very great and respectable: the beach is covered with a fine sand, and sheltered by cliffs behind, and in front by high rocks rising out of the sea, affording a desirable seclusion to persons bathing. The church is a large handsome edifice of very ancient appearance: the western door exhibits a very curious mixture of the Gothic or Saracenic style of architecture, and the whole edifice is perhaps one of the largest buildings in the Principality; consisting of three broad aisles, nearly of the same dimension, except the nave, which is rather higher, and prolonged beyond the two former. A carved ceiling, formed of wood, ornamented at the intersection of the ribs, with various armorial bearings, and supported by human figures, springing from pillars of wood, is a remarkable singularity in this edifice. Here are several fine old monuments, particularly two of gypsum, with the sides highly ornamented with good basso-relievos; and at the west end is another erected to the memory of John More, in 1639. King Henry the Seventh is said to have borne great affection to this town for eminent services rendered him when he was obliged to leave the realm;

realm; and his gratitude was afterwards evinced to his great benefactor and strenuous adherent, Mr. Griffith White, then Mayor, by granting him a lease of all the crown lands about Tenby. According to Bishop Tanner, there was an hospital or lazar-house, dedicated to St. Mary Magdalene, near Tenby, for the king's tenants, under the government of the Mayor, of the yearly value of 40s.; and also an hospital or free chapel of St. John the Baptist, of the yearly value of £6. Near Tenby shore are the small islands of St. Catharine and Caldy, or Ynyspŷr, *i. e.* "the Island of the Lords," it was formerly the property of the Barre family. The Abbey of St. Dogmael had this small island by the gift of Robert Fitz Martin's mother, and before the dissolution had a cell here.

Resuming our road, at the distance of about eight miles from Carew castle, we arrive at Arberth, or Narberth, which Leland calls "a little place, a little pretty pile of old Sir Rhŷs, given unto him by King Henry the Eighth." It is a poor little village, and by it is a small forest. On entering Arberth, the old castle stands on an eminence on the right, and affords a fine object for the artist; as a piece of romantic scenery, it affords considerable pleasure to the contemplative antiquary; while the turrets, which separate the keep from its exterior, evince it to have been extremely grand and cumbrous in its ancient state. By whom or when this castle was built is uncertain, but it is believed to have been built by Sir Andrew Perrot, and was the residence of the ancient Barons of Narberth: it suffered much during the usurpation of Oliver Cromwell. Leland describes it to be in ruins in his time. The church is dedicated to St. Andrew. At Templetown, a village in the south-east part of this parish, is a chapel now in ruins, and which is thought to have belonged formerly to some of the order of the Knights Templars of St. John of Jerusalem. It is said to take its name from having been the favourite resort of the knights during the season in which they enjoyed the recreation of hunting.

About one mile from Narberth we take a westerly direction, and at the distance of about eight miles we pass through

HAVERFORDWEST,

or Castell Hwlffordd, a large town, descending in several steep streets from the top of an high hill to a branch of the Haven, from whence it derives its commercial importance, and may be properly called the modern capital of the county: it is also become, from its great extent and superior decorations, the seat of the Assizes, besides having the appearance of greater opulence and trade than falls to the lot of most Welsh Towns. Among the public concerns of this place are a good quay and custom-house, free school, charity school, and almshouse. Of its three churches, St. Mary's, St. Martin's, and St. Thomas's, that of St. Mary's is the most elegant. With all these advantages, it has many ill-paved streets, but several very good houses, which, though widely interspersed about the place, do in some measure

measure compensate for the inconvenience of avenues almost uniformly steep and slippery, with the ground floors in some parts overlooking the neighbouring roofs. The town was formerly fortified by a strong wall or rampart, having on the western summit the shell of an extensive castle commanding the town, and built by Gilbert Earl of Clare in the reign of Stephen: a great part is still standing, and lately converted into a gaol. It had formerly an outer gate, with two portcullises, and an inner one. The walls were strong and well fortified, with a rampart and castle in the parish of St. Martin, with towers, supposed to have been destroyed in the civil wars in the reign of Charles the First. Here is likewise a good parade commanding an extensive view of the neighbouring county, and the ruins of an ancient abbey extending a considerable way by the side of the hill: at the extremity of this walk stand the ruins of an ancient priory of Black Canons, erected before the year 1200, dedicated to St. Mary and St. Thomas the Martyr, and liberally endowed, if not founded, by Robert de Haverford, Lord of this place, who bestowed on it several churches and tythes within the barony, which were afterwards confirmed by Edward the Third. The remains are now very considerable, particularly the chapel, which has still one arch in good preservation and beautifully inwreathed with a rich drapery of ivy, and some fine specimens of Gothic workmanship. There was also "a house of Black Friars within the town, granted 38th Henry VIII. to Roger and Thomas Barlow." There is a remarkable echo on the south-side of the castle.

About four miles south of Haverfordwest are the remains of a priory, called Pilla, or Pille Rose, situate in the parish of Stanton, or Staintown, the church of which is dedicated to St. Peter, and founded by Adam de Rupe, about the year 1200, for Monks of the order of Trione, who in time forsook that strict rule and became afterwards Benedictines. At the dissolution it was granted to Roger and Thomas Barlow: a very small portion of it now remains, having been greatly diminished within the memory of man, by pulling parts down and using the stones in other buildings. This house was dedicated to St. Mary and St. Budoc, and is said to have been subordinate to St. Dogmael's. Near the village of Pille, in this parish, are the ruins of an old chapel or chantry with an arched roof, and nearly entire, now used as a gunpowder magazine for two batteries, one of two guns at Milford, and the other of seven guns, on an opposite point, at Hakin. Here the late Sir William James, Bart. who was an honour to the county of Pembroke, went first to school, and laid the foundation of those acquirements which proved so beneficial to his country.

At the distance of five miles south-east is Picton Castle, the seat of the late Lord Milford, and now of his representative, whose extensive domains cover a great tract of country. It is situate near the East Cleddau, and is one of the most ancient residences in the kingdom having

having been built by William Picton, a Norman knight, in the reign of William Rufus. During the civil wars, Sir Richard Phillips made a long and vigorous defence in it for Charles the First. The extensive plantations which environ this seat render the whole a beautiful retreat.

Three miles north of Picton Castle is Wyston, or Whiston, in the Welsh "Castell Gwys," having its church dedicated to Saint Mary. It is a small corporate town, and was formerly defended by a magnificent castle, which has been for many years neglected, though now rendered habitable, and the internal part modernised, which renders the whole an agreeable residence. This was the ancient seat of the Wogans, and was the head of the barony of Dau Gleddau.

Gwyr is a small district, inhabited by a colony of Flemings, who settled here in the reign of Henry the First. In Caradoc's *Chronicle of Wales* we find that a great number of Flemings, having been driven out of their habitations by a very extraordinary inundation of the sea, sought protection in England, where they were cordially received; but when these people began to disperse themselves along the kingdom, and their number increase, it began to create some uneasiness, which Henry the First remedied by removing or settling them as a colony in South Wales; therefore he gave them the country adjoining to Tenby and Haverfordwest. By this policy the king rid his own dominions of an incumbrance, at the same time fixing a curb on the restless Cambrians. This little territory, which the Flemings inhabit, the Welsh call Gwyr, and the English often "Little England beyond Wales," because their language and manners are still distinguishable from the Welsh, for in point of speech they nearly assimilate the English. The descendants of this colony, or the present inhabitants of Gwyr, seldom intermarry with the Welsh, but appear rather averse from the language and manners of the country they inhabit. Both sexes among the Flemings distinguish themselves by wearing a short cloak, generally called a Gwyr Wittle.

Returning on our road, on leaving Haverfordwest, our route lies in a northerly direction, and at the distance of about 11 miles we arrive at Fishguard, or Aber-Gwayn, which stands on a steep rock, with a convenient harbour, formed by the Gwain river, over-hanging an exceedingly high mountain, along the side of which is cut a narrow road, scarcely wide enough to admit two horses abreast. This port is almost the only one from the Mersey to the Severn, whose entrance is bold and safe, not obstructed by shoals or bars, and has been proved to be an object of national attention. The principal exports are oats and butter: the imports are shop goods from Bristol, culm, coal, lime, and timber. Here is carried on a general fishery, but not to that extent of which it is capable, employing at present about 30 or 40 boats, which begin about the end of harvest and continue to Christmas. Fishguard is properly divided into the upper and lower town:

town: the upper is situate on a considerable eminence above the harbour, containing the church (dedicated to Saint Mary), market-place, shops, and inns; the lower occupies the eastern side of the river and port, in a single and double row of buildings of a considerable length from south to north, bounded by the pier, and possessing all the advantages for trade. At the entrance of the harbour is a small fort, mounted with a battery, at the expense of Sir Hugh Owen, Bart. It may be said of Fishguard bay in general, that ships of the largest size may anchor in all parts of it with south-east, southerly, and westerly winds, in perfect safety. The road in general may contain above a hundred sail of vessels, large and small, sheltered from all winds except north-north-west to north-east. The harbour of Fishguard is of an irregular form, but capacious and easy of access, having neither rock nor bar at its entry, which is about 1160 feet wide and about 2400 feet in length. The Irish packets often put in here. There are the ruins of an ancient ecclesiastical building, called Cappel Llanfihangel, in the east end of the parish; and also the ruins of two other churches, called Llanfarthin and Llanist; and it is supposed that the modern parish of Fishguard composed two parishes before the present church was built. It was formerly part of the possessions of the abbey of Saint Dogmael, and granted away at the dissolution of religious houses in the reign of King Henry the Eighth. Here is a fine mineral spring, which was found to be efficacious in curing numbness of the limbs; and on enclosing it, about 40 years ago, a stone was discovered, with a motto in antient Greek characters. Near the churchyard, a few yards from the north-east wall, is a most remarkable echo. The town has still the ruins of an old castle, built by the descendants of Martin de Tours, in which place Rhŷs ap Gruffydd, Prince of South Wales, was confined. The castle was demolished by Llywelyn when in the possession of the Flemings, and has now only the gateway left. Between the church and the river is a vast stone of nine tons weight and about nine feet in diameter, resting on others, and forming a cromlech. In the neighbourhood are several of the latter, or cistvaens, contained within the circuit of sixty yards, and standing near the road side. Fishguard is rendered memorable, likewise, by the French invasion near Llanwnda (alias Llan Anno) church, where they landed on February 22d, 1797, to the number of about 1400 men. On this occasion the greatest exertions were used by the chief men of the county to collect what small force they could, which arrived at Fishguard the same evening, consisting of the Pembrokeshire Fencibles, 100; part of the Cardiganshire Militia, 200; Fishguard and Newport Fencibles, 300; and Lord Cawdor's troop of Cavalry, 60; total 660. These men, though properly trained to the use of the musket, had never seen one fired in anger; but many of the officers had been long in the service, and were experienced in the art of war. To these must be added a great

great many gentlemen volunteers, and colliers, and the common people of all descriptions, armed and unarmed; the whole of which were very judiciously placed on Goodrich sands, under Fishguard. Fortunately, on the following evening, about ten o'clock, a French officer arrived with offers to surrender in the morning, which they accordingly did, and gave up their arms, when they were marched from hence to Haverfordwest, and confined in several places, as the castle, church, and store-house, but were soon after removed to Milford, and put in prison ships. Thus ended this singular expedition, the object of which remains enveloped in mystery; but it is evident something more was intended than was effected, by the quantity of powder brought with them, amounting to about 70 cart loads, and a great number of hand-grenades.

About six miles from Fishguard is Newport, or Trêf Draeth, a small corporate town, seated on the foot of a high hill near the sea shore, with a good annual fair for cattle, &c. It has some fragments remaining of a stupendous fortress, but too mutilated to merit description. The church, dedicated to Saint Mary, is a tolerable structure; and there are upwards of two hundred houses, with good paved streets. Here the river Nefern is navigable, and runs by one end of the town, but the trade of this place is very inconsiderable. In the churchyard near the town are several druidical sepulchres and altars, one of which is about nine feet in diameter, and of a conical form and well preserved, considering in what period it was probably erected.—There was a house of Augustine friars here.

"In the churchyard at Nefern, the church of which is dedicated to Saint Brynach or Bernagha, a renowned British abbot, who flourished in the fifth century (observes Mr. Gibson), on the north side, is a rude stone pitched on end, about two yards in height, of a triquatrous form, with another smaller angle, having on the south side an inscription, which seems older than the foundation of the church, and was perhaps the epitaph of a Roman soldier, for I guess it must be read *Vitelliani Emeriti.*" In the same churchyard, on the south side, is erected a handsome pillar as the shaft or pedestal of a cross, supposed to be British; it is of a quadrangular form, about two feet broad, 18 inches thick, and 13 feet high, neatly carved on all sides, with certain endless knots, which are about thirty-one in number, and all different: the top is covered with a cross stone, below which there is a cross carved on the east and west sides, and about the middle there are some letters, which perhaps are no other than the initials of those persons by whom it was erected. There is also an inscription within this church, which is equally obscure, and seems more like Greek than Roman characters: the stone is pitched on one end not two feet high, and is round at top, about which the letters are cut. Near Pentre Evan, in the same parish, is a remarkable cromlech, and this neighbourhood abounds with druidical antiquities. The castle is demolished.

Ten

Ten miles east of Newport is Kilgerran, or Cilgaran (having its church dedicated to Ciaran, a saint who founded the Abbey of Clonmacknois on the Shannon, in the 6th century), which consists of one irregular street. It stands on a steep hill at the extremity of a remote corner of Pembrokeshire, and has some remains of an old castle, projecting proudly over the river, which winds beautifully between the steep banks, thickly fringed with wood and interspersed with rocks, while the opposite seat and groves of Coedmore add considerably to the natural beauty of the prospect. Of the castle two round towers are all that remain, situate at the extremity of a long street. When this became a military station is not known; but Rhŷs, Prince of South Wales, took the castle in 1164, and razed it to the ground, and afterwards rebuilt it in 1165, wherein he was besieged by a numerous army of Normans and Flemings, without success. In 1205 it was surrendered to William Marshall, Earl of Pembroke, and restored to Llewelyn ap Iorwerth in 1215; but on the death of Gruffydd, the son of Llewelyn ap Iorwerth, near Kydweli, the Earl again took possession, and began to build a very strong castle, but being re-called to London by Henry the Third before the completion, it was never finished. There are vestiges of a chapel in the castle, called Cappel Bach. Through this village runs a small river, called the Teifi, which generally affords the traveller some curious observations, particularly the numerous coracles which stand at almost every door.

Two miles from Nefern is Saint Dogfael Abbey, in the parish of Saint Dogfael, to whom the church is dedicated; this saint lived about the middle of the seventh century. The abbey, situated in a vale encompassed by hills, was founded for Benedictines in the time of William the Conqueror, and was valued at £87. 8s. 6d. Some ruins, which constitute part of the chapel, remain. In the latter was found a stone, with some unintelligible inscription, but by the characters thought to be British. In the neighbourhood are several barrows and a few heaps of stones (said to have been druidical altars, but at present in a state of total ruin), wherein have been found urns, &c. The most remarkable are in Cemaes barony; and on a hill called Kil Rhedyn there are three Danish encampments—one at a place called Wolf's Castle, with three tumuli near it, and two at Sealyham, in the centre of one of which is a rocking stone. There is a strong chalybeate spring near the church, efficacious in consumptions.

About fifteen miles south of Fishguard is the city of

SAINT DAVID'S,

which has given one saint to the church, and to the nation three lords treasurer, one lord privy seal, a chancellor to the queen, and another to the university of Oxford. It is situate in a deep hollow, and is well sheltered from the winds which ravage this stormy coast. Here are a few good houses appropriated to the ecclesiastical establishment, in

in the midst of which the cathedral appears, rising with renovated magnificence. The precise origin of this city and cathedral cannot be ascertained, but it appears to have been of considerable importance in the time of the Ancient Britons. The first account of this cathedral commences in 911, when the Danes under Uther and Rahald destroyed it, and slew its defender, Peredwr Gam. It was soon rebuilt, but again much defaced by Swaine, the son of Harold, in 993, who likewise slew Morgeney, then bishop of that diocese. This appears to have been the last transaction of importance till 1079, when William the Conqueror entered Wales with a great army, marching after the manner of a pilgrimage as far as Saint David's, when, having made an offering and paid his devotion to that saint, he received homage of the kings and princes of that country. In 1087 a most daring sacrilege was committed at Saint David's: the shrine belonging to the cathedral was feloniously carried away, and all the plate and other utensils were stolen. Subsequent to this, or about 1101, Saint David's began to be subject to the see of Canterbury, but was always before the metropolitan church of all Wales. The former cathedral having been often demolished, the present one was built in the reign of Henry the Second (1110): it is a handsome edifice, with two transepts, being in length from east to west 300 feet, and the body with the aisles 76 feet broad; behind the choir is a most beautiful chapel, with a rich roof of carved stone, built by Bishop Vaughan in the time of Henry the Eighth. In the north wall of the choir was the shrine of Saint David, with a canopy of four pointed arches, and in front four quatrefoil holes, into which the votaries put their offerings, which were taken out by the monks at two iron doors behind. Within the choir are the monuments of Owen Tudor and Rhŷs ap Tudor, and likewise of Bishops Iorwerth and Anselm in the 13th century, and of Edmund Earl of Richmond. There is a tradition that King Henry the Eighth had once a design of removing the episcopal see from hence to Caermarthen, but that he desisted from the intention when he was informed that the bones of his grandfather, the Earl of Richmond, were buried here. Giraldus Cambrensis, Archdeacon of Brecon, was also buried here in 1213. The modern church, much to the honour of its proprietors, is in excellent preservation, and has had considerable attention and expense bestowed on it lately, for the whole is in good repair, particularly the west front, which has been rebuilt, and in a taste perfectly corresponding with the rest of the edifice. The tower is finely carved in fret-work, and, like many of our English cathedrals, the gothic ornaments of the choir contrast the Saxon pillars and arches of the great aisle, which are themselves curiously worked in wreathes. The ceiling (of Irish oak) is much to be admired, together with a very perfect mosaic pavement. In Saint Mary's Chapel, founded by Bishop Haughton and John of Gaunt in 1365, and endowed with £106 per annum, are some

some curious remains of pillars and arches, with which the whole space is strewed; various also are the devices in sculpture to be found here, including the heads of seven sisters, who are said to have contributed to the building. The Chapel House has a very fine covered ceiling, and Saint Mary's Hall, now in ruins, exhibits much ancient grandeur. According to the *Liber Regis* this bishoprick is worth £426. 2s. 1d. but its real value is upwards of £2,400. The bishop's palace, though in ruins, appears to have been formerly a magnificent and princely structure: it stood over the river Alan to the south-west: two parts of its quadrangle are yet nearly entire, and crowned with a light gothic parapet, but the arch leading to the King's Hall is singularly fine, with the statues of King John and his Queen. The hall itself is a grand room, 80 feet long by 30 wide, with an elegant circular window at the east end, opening like a wheel, with a rim, spokes, and centre, wrought in the finest gothic taste, and quite entire; the chapel contains a font, with the remains of some curious pieces of sculpture. The kitchen is nearly whole, with four chimnies and four arches, supported by a solid pillar in the centre. Its modern ecclesiastical establishment is highly respectable, consisting of a bishop, six canons-residentiary, four archdeacons, and several canons. Bishop Gower's palace is situate by the side of the river Alan: here are three sides of a magnificent palace, the hall being 58 feet by 23, to which belongs a parlour 25 feet by 28, with a central pillar supporting four wide arches which occupy four sides of the room, forming four large chimnies. The south side of the quadrangle consists of a very noble hall, built, it is said, to entertain King John on his return from Ireland. Within the close are four or five good prebendal houses; and north-east of the college of Saint Mary are the ruins of the Vicars' Choral College.—Richard Davies, D. D. Bishop of St. Asaph from 1559 to 1561, was in the latter year translated to Saint David's: he was the coadjutor of W. Salusbury in translating the new testament into Welsh, and was one of those eminent scholars who were employed by Queen Elizabeth in making the English version of the bible.

On the south side of the church of Briddell, in the churchyard, is a large stone 9 feet in length, but without any inscription upon it, having only on one side a wheel marked with a cross.

In the parish of Castle Martin, the church of which is dedicated to Saint Michael, are the remains of an old castle, still apparent.—The grass in the parish churchyard of Saint Edeyrn is in great esteem, on account of its supposed efficacy and wonderful effect in curing not only cattle, horses, sheep, and pigs, which have been bitten by mad dogs, but human beings also! In the chancel wall is a cavity with a stone trough, into which persons pay what they please for the grass; and this is the perquisite of the parish clerk.—In the parish of Humberstone, or Saint Herbert's Town, the church of which is dedicated to

to St. David, is an observatory. Here are the remains of an ancient religious edifice, but it is not known of what order or by whom founded.—In the parish of Llan-y-Tudwal are two ancient encampments, supposed to be British.—In the parish of Llanwnda, at the verge of a rocky eminence above the village, is a cromlech, and the remains of Druidical monuments and other ancient works are numerously dispersed in this parish. There is also a tradition of a town having anciently existed here, called Trêf-Culhwch. The celebrated Giraldus Cambrensis was vicar of this parish.

In the parish of Maen-Clôchog, which hath its church dedicated to Saint Mary, is "Saint Mary's Well," said to be efficacious in rheumatism. "Maen-Clôchog," adds a respectable divine, vicar of this parish, "is derived from the Welsh language, and signifies a sounding stone, which was a large stone placed upon three smaller ones, and so well poized that a child of five years old could shake it (although it was about two tons weight), and in moving it sounded like a bell. Some of the inhabitants of Maen-Clôchog, thinking there was a treasure concealed under it, bored a hole in it and had it split with gunpowder, and then dug up the small stones; but, to their great disappointment, they found no treasure." In this parish is Preseley, which is the highest mountain in South Wales, and which was formerly covered with wood: the old inhabitants who live on its borders have a tradition that the old Britons or Welsh had their habitations here in the time of the civil wars; its name formerly was Preswylfa, but now, by a corruption and abbreviation of the word, it is called Preseley.

In Maenor-Bŷrr parish, that is "the Manor of the Lords," is a castle on the sea-coast. It appears to have been of Norman erection, and fell to the crown in the reign of Henry the First, but was granted by James the First to the Bowens of Trelogne, from them it descended by marriage to the family of Picton Castle, and in the year 1740 was the property of Sir Erasmus Phillips. The ponderous towers and massive fragments denote its original strength and importance; and it attracts the curious, and induces many strangers to visit it during the summer months. It was once the property of the Barri family, and here Giraldus Cambrensis was born in 1145. In the church, which is dedicated to Saint James, is a sepulchral effigy of a near relative of Giraldus, in good preservation.

In the parish of Merthyr, which hath its church dedicated to the Holy Martyrs, is a large and perfect cromlech, erected on six strong pillars, now standing on a farm belonging to the Bishop, called Long House.—In the churchyard of Penally is a very beautiful shaft of one of the early crosses, covered with rich tracery: and in a field a little to the northward of the church are the remains of a building, which from its form and position is thought to have been a chantry chapel; the parsonage-house bears marks of its having been formerly

of

of great extent and consequence.—Ramsey Island, in the parish of Saint David, is about three miles in length and about one mile in breadth: it was famous for its breed of falcons. "Saint Justinian, a noble Britain by birth, built a monastery in the island of Ramsey, in Pembrokeshire, where the monks lived happily under his discipline, till three of them, by the Devil's instigation, slew this Justinian, in the year 486."

In the parish of St. Bride, which is situated on the south side of a spacious bay, to which it gives name, facing St. George's channel, is a scite of a building, called "The Chapel," on the north side of the present church-yard: and the remains of an old burial ground (with several stone coffins), part of which has been destroyed by the sea.

At the small village of Castle Morrice, was formerly a castle, belonging to the Bishops of St. David, but which is now entirely demolished, and on its scite is erected a farm-house.

Bosheston hath its church dedicated to St. Michael. It is situate on the Bristol channel. On the southern point of the parish, close to the sea, is a little chapel, which is supposed to have been the residence of a hermit; and near to it a small well which is much resorted to in rheumatic complaints. Lord Cawdor is proprietor of the whole parish, except one small farm. Mr. Emanuel Bowen, in his map of South Wales, states that "Bosheston Meer is a hole like a coal-pit, but so very deep as to have a communication with the sea, and notwithstanding the surface is on the top of exceeding high rocks, yet, in a flood tide, the wind southerly, the water flies violently out of it upwards."

Burton is situate on the river Cleddau. The old castle, called Burton Castle, affords a delightful prospect, and is much admired by persons sailing up the river.—In the parish of Camrhôs is a large tumulus.

Castle Beilh hath its church dedicated to St. Michael. There are vestiges still remaining of a Roman station on the borders of this parish. The high road, which is the division of the parishes of Ambleston and Castle Beilh, runs at present through the centre of it. Several pieces of Roman bricks have been discovered there lately by an antiquary: but various pieces of different kinds of utensils were found when the mound was removed by the farmers, in order to sow corn thereon, about fifty years ago. It is the opinion of two antiquaries, who have just inspected it, that it was the Roman station (*Advicesimum*), in their way from Caermarthen to St. David's.

Clydaû hath its church dedicated to Clydai, a female saint, who lived about the middle of the fifth century. The church is double, and is a plain neat structure, with a square tower neatly built.

Saint Dogmael's is situate on the river Teifi. Here is a chalybeate spring which is now in use. Here was a monastery of the order of Tirone, begun by Martin of Tours, who conquered the country of Cemaes,

Cemaes, in or soon after the reign of William the Conqueror, and which was endowed and made an abbey by Robert Fitz-Martin, his son, in the reign of King Henry the First. It was dedicated to Saint Mary, had an yearly revenue of £96. 0s. 2d. in the whole, and £87. 8s. 6d. clear (26th Henry VIII.), and was granted, in the 35th year of King Henry VIII. to John Bradshaw.

East Haroldston hath its chapel dedicated to Saint Ishmael. Here was the hermitage of Saint Caradog; and, probably near a place called Poorfield, the common on which Haverfordwest races are holden, as there is a well there called Caradog's well, round which, till within these few years, there was a sort of vanity fair, where cakes were sold and country games celebrated.

West Haroldston had its church dedicated to Saint Madog, who lived about the middle of the sixth century. There are the foundations of several houses still remaining, which prove the former population to have been much greater than it is at present. Some centuries back it was the residence of the Lord of Haroldston, who is the lord paramount over several manors.

Saint Ishmael's is situate on Milford Haven. This was the last place of residence of Saint Caradog the historian, where he died, and was buried with great honour in the cathedral church of St. David's.

Johnston.—The only object of note in this parish is the old family mansion of the Right Hon. Lord Kensington, called Johnston Hall, which is now partly occupied as a farm-house, and the remainder is in a rapid state of decay.

Llan-Deilo.—The church, which is now in ruins, was dedicated to Saint Teilo: it is united to the vicarage of Maen Clôchog. Here is a fine spring, which the credulous still believe will cure coughs, "when the water is drunk out of the skull of Saint Teilo," which is carefully kept clean and shining on the shelf of a farm house close by the well.

Llan-Hauaden hath its church dedicated to Aidan, a saint and bishop of Lindisfarne, or Holy Land, who died in the year 651. The great baronial castle, which is now in ruins, was the ancient residence of the bishops of the diocese. It is situate on the banks of the east Cleddau. Here was an hospital (the ruins of which remain), founded by Thomas Beke, Bishop of St. David's, A.D. 1287.

Llan-ych-Llwydog hath its church dedicated to Saint David. It is beautifully situate on the river Gwayn. The church, according to Mr. Fenton, is said to have been founded by Clydawc, a regulus of the country, who was murdered in the neighbourhood as he was pursuing the chase, and whose grave, by tradition, is marked by two upright stones still visible in the churchyard.

Marloes, or Morlas, hath its church dedicated to Saint Peter.—The inhabitants of this village, who are descended from the Flemings, are

are uncommonly industrious, and among other articles of trade dispose of great numbers of leeches, with which Marloes Mere abounds.

Nolton, or Knowelton, hath its church dedicated to Saint Madoc. There are the remains of a chapel, situate near the small village of Druidston, *i. e.* Druid's Town, which name the chapel goes by. This part of the county is all English. Nolton stone is said to be equal to Portland stone.

Saint Petrox, or Llan-Pedrog, hath its church dedicated to Saint Pedrog, who lived about the beginning of the seventh century. This place is celebrated for the salubrity of the air, and the longevity of its inhabitants.

Rhôs Market hath its church dedicated to Saint Ishmael.—In the village is an old mansion, now a farm house, which was an ancient seat of the family of Walter, and remarkable at this day for nothing but its having been the birth-place of the celebrated Lucy Walter, mistress to King Charles the Second, and mother to the unfortunate Duke of Monmouth.

Rudbaxton, or Rudepascton, hath its church dedicated to Saint Michael. Tradition says that there were formerly two chapels here, called Saint Catherine's and Saint Leonard's, but there are now no vestiges of either remaining. In part of this parish is a hill, upon which is an ancient camp commonly called The Rath. Opposite to the entrance into the churchyard is one of those large mounts which are so frequently met with in this county, and whose origin and use have not been as yet decisively ascertained.

Slebech hath its church dedicated to Saint John the Baptist. It is beautifully situate near the east Cleddau. Wizo, and Walter his son, having given lands here to the Knights of Saint John of Jerusalem for the recovery of the Holy Land, a preceptory of their order was settled here before A. D. 1301, which was endowed at the dissolution with £211. 9s. 11d. per annum in the whole, and £184. 10s. 11d. clear, and was granted, with several other places in these parts, to Roger and Thomas Barlow. There is no trace left of any building coeval with the ancient commandery, except the church.

Trêf Asser is in the parish of Llanwnda. Here the celebrated Asser Menevensis is said to have been born. Near this is a tumulus, called Castell Poeth, *i. e.* "The Hot Castle," in which fragments of urns and other sepulchral indications have been discovered.

Walwyn's Castle hath its church dedicated to Saint James. It is said that the body of Gwalchmai (the cousin of Arthur), of a gigantic stature, was discovered here in the reign of William the Conqueror; which Gwalchmai, being driven from his inheritance in Galway, was wrecked upon this coast, and here interred.

Castle Martin hath its church dedicated to Saint Michael. The remains of an old castle are still apparent in the village.

The following eminent persons were natives or inhabitants of this county:—

county :—Henry the Seventh, King of England, born in Pembroke Castle; Giraldus Cambrensis; Sir William James, Baronet; Asser Menevensis; General Sir Thomas Picton; Captain Foley, R. N.; Lucy Walter, mistress to King Charles the Second, and mother to the unfortunate Duke of Monmouth.

FLINTSHIRE

Is the smallest county in the Principality; the air is cold but generally healthful; and this county, like other parts of the Cambrian territory, is full of hills, particularly near the shore of the Dee, where the land rises rapidly, forming a ridge of hills running for a considerable distance parallel to that river. The commercial importance of Flintshire is almost solely derived from its mineral productions, particularly the lead ore, which is smelted on the spot, and the metal exported from Chester. Some kinds of the ore contain silver enough to repay with profit the expense of separating that precious metal from the lead; and large quantities of silver have been annually extracted in this county, which is chiefly used by the manufacturers of Birmingham and Sheffield. The calamine is mostly exported, and some used at a brass-foundry at Holywell; from the coal pits the city of Chester is chiefly supplied. The most remarkable river in this county is the Alyn, which, near Mold, sinks under ground, and is lost for a considerable space. The rivers of the Vale of Clwyd have likewise their exit in Flintshire, including the Elwy and Chwilar, which supply the epicure with delicious fish.

FLINT,

anciently called Colsul or Coleshill, is the county town, incorporated by Edward the First, and a place of great antiquity, but small and irregularly built, near the sea. It is much resorted to by the neighbouring gentry, as a bathing place, though the marshy coast, on which the sea frequently flows, renders it extremely disagreeable. The church (dedicated to Saint Mary) is a chapel of ease to Northop. The county gaol stands adjacent to the churchyard, on a fine healthy situation, but the assizes for the county are held at Mold. This town was formerly enclosed with a vast ditch and double walls of earth, which at the east end unite in one, having four entrances. The castle, built of red stone, stands close to the sea, on a rock, enclosing a space of about three quarters of an acre, treble ditched, or divided in three parts by many ditches. The first is formed by the high bank

of the town and castle, beyond which is a large square area; another ditch separates this from a smaller square court with round towers. One side of the court is entire, with several pointed windows: the castle is defended by three round towers at three of the angles, and at the south-east by a fourth, larger than the rest, detached from a wall called the double tower or dungeon, to which Richard the Second retreated. It is formed by two concentric walls, each six feet thick, with a gallery eight feet broad and fourteen high, arched with another over it, having four doors opening into a circular area in the centre of twenty feet diameter. Towards the west end of the south side, in the ditch, is a draw-well, communicating with the second story. From the south side runs a double wall, enclosing a considerable area, with earth on the outside piled up to the top. Richard the Second, after his return from Ireland, stopped here, where he slept and dined, in 1399; but it was afterwards invested by 10,000 men, commanded by the Duke of Lancaster; and on Richard's departure he was taken prisoner, and soon after murdered at Pontefract. The castle was begun by King Henry the Second, and finished by Edward the First. In 1647 this castle was dismantled by the parliament, after standing two long sieges during the civil wars. It now belongs to the crown, which appoints a constable, who is also mayor. The precinct of Flint is thought to have once served to inclose a small Roman station, from the numerous Roman coins and other antiquities discovered there. About a mile from this town, on the lower road to Chester, stood Atis Cross, where tradition places a large town in ancient times, and where, it is said, foundations of large buildings are often discovered. It was undoubtedly a Roman station, by the number of coins and other fragments found there and in the lands contiguous.

On leaving Flint we proceed southerly, and, at the distance of three miles, pass through Northop or Llan Eurgain, having its church dedicated to Eurgain, a female saint whose history is not known. There is a farm-house called Manachlog, *i. e.* "The Monastery," which stands on Watt's Dyke, and which probably took its name from being a grange belonging to a monastery, as there is no tradition of its ever having been a religious house. About a mile north-west of Northop church is the site, surrounded by a moat, of Llŷs Edwin, or Edwin's Palace: he was head of one of the fifteen tribes of North Wales, and Lord of Tegeingl.

About three miles beyond Manachlog we pass through

MOLD,

called in Welsh Yr Wyddgrug, or the conspicuous barrow: it is a small market town, consisting of one long street, wider than most belonging to North Wales. The church, dedicated to Saint Mary, is a neat building, ornamented all round the top walls with gothic carvings of animals; the pillars in the interior are light and elegant, having

having between the arches figures of angels bearing shields with arms on them, probably those borne by the benefactors of this church: among the monuments is an elegant one for Robert Davies, Esq. of Llannerch, who died in the year 1728; near to it is another to his grandfather, Robert Davies, Esq. of Gwysaney, the paternal seat of the family. Gwysaney is a most respectable old house, and in the time of the civil wars was of strength sufficient to be garrisoned; it was taken April, 1645, by Sir William Brereton. Mold had an ancient castle on a hill with a keep on the north side, and at the south end a long square area, both divided from the former by a deep ditch, while another surrounded the whole, dividing it into three parts, until demolished by Owen Gwynedd, in 1144. It was again re-built by Gruffydd ap Gwenwynwyn in 1263, who closely besieged it, and burnt the fortress. Near the church, built in the reign of Henry the Eighth, was found a gold coin of Vespasian; in the south chapel is a small niche, with a statue of Robert Warton, or Parsew, bishop of Saint Asaph from 1536 to 1554, which, according to the inscription, was erected by one John ap Rhŷs; and against a pillar of the nave is a monumental inscription for William Wynne, of Tower, D. D. Near Mold is Maes Garmon, or German's field, so called from a victory obtained by Germanus over the Pagans, Picts, and Saxons, in 440, in commemoration of it an obelisk was erected in 1730 by Nehemiah Griffith, Esq. on the supposed spot, with a suitable inscription. At the north end of the town stands the mount, called by the Welsh Yr Wydd-grug,* and from which the place took its name. It was translated by the Normans into Mons Altus, and afterwards corrupted into Monte Alto, Montaldo, and finally to Moulde, and Mold. This eminence is partly natural and partly artificial. The Britons first, and then the Saxons and Normans, taking advantage of such a situation, placed a castle on its summit: this mount is now called the Bailey Hill, from the word Ballium or Castle Yard; it appears to have been strongly fortified, and is divided into three parts, the lower ballium or yard, the upper, and the keep. In the reign of William Rufus this place was in the possession of one Eustace, who then did homage for Mold and Hope Dale. In the time of King Stephen it was the property of Robert, High Steward of Chester, and one of the Barons of the Norman Earls. In 1144 this fortress was taken by the Welsh, under their prince Owen Gwynedd, and razed to the ground. A little time before the conquest of Wales, the inhabitants of Molesdale, or Ystrad Alun, presented a memorial of the wrongs done to them by Roger de Clifford, Justiciary of Chester, and his deputy, Roger Scroghil. They alleged that their lands were taken from them; that they were grievously and unjustly fined on trivial occasions; and that after paying a sum for exemption from English

* Gwydd-grûg, derived from Gwydd, conspicuous; and Crûg, a tumulus, mount, or tommen: the initial C in composition being changed into g.

English laws they were obliged to submit to a trial by jury, contrary to the usage of their country. Henry the Fourth made a grant of this place, together with Hope and Hope Dale, to Sir John Stanley, and it remained in the possession of the Derby family until the attainder of Earl James. An old house in this parish, called the Tower, from its singular construction, being a square building consisting of three stories, was at one time the residence of Reinallt ap Gruffydd ap Bleddyn, one of the six gallant captains who defended Harlech Castle on the part of Henry the Sixth against the Earl of Pembroke. This Reinallt and his people were in continual feuds with the citizens of Chester; in 1465 a considerable number of the latter came to Mold fair, and a fray ensued between the said parties, in which a dreadful slaughter ensued on both sides, but Reinallt obtained the victory, and took prisoner Robert Bryne, linen-draper, and Mayor of Chester in 1461, whom he led to his tower and hung on the staple in his great hall. An attempt was made afterwards to seize Reinallt, and two hundred tall men went from Chester for that purpose. Hearing of their approach he retired to a neighbouring wood, and permitted part of his enemies to enter his building; he then rushed from his cover, fastened the door, and setting fire to the place, burnt them without mercy; he afterwards attacked the rest and pursued them to the sea side, where those who escaped the sword perished in the channel. Reinallt received his pardon from Thomas Lord Stanley, Lord of the Council of Wales, and it was subsequently confirmed under the Great Seal by Edward IV. His actions were celebrated at the time in poems, particularly by Lewis Glynn Cothi, an eminent bard, and an officer under Jasper, Earl of Pembroke. It seems that Lewis had married a Cestrian widow against the consent of the inhabitants, who persecuted him and despoiled him of all his property. This severity irritated the poet, and called into exercise his satirical genius; in one of his compositions he summons the ministry of angels and of devils to his assistance, and pours a profusion of curses on Caer-Lleon and its people. He wishes water to drown, fire to burn, and air to infect the hated place, and that grace might grow in every part, except the sacred edifices, of this habitation of the seven deadly sins. The tower was called after the name of its hero; it was also called Bryncoed and Broncoed, or Wood Hill, most probably from the wood which surrounded it.

About five miles to the north-west of Mold, is Pen Bedw, formerly the seat of Watkin Williams, Esq. now deceased, who possessed some remains of Sir Kenelm Digby's library, and a superb pedigree of that family, illuminated with drawings of all the arms and tombs, which was completed in the year 1634, and is said to have cost £1000. In the meadow below the house are part of a druidical circle and a small tumulus. On the summit of one of the mountains, at a great height above the house, is a very strong British post, called Moel Arthur, with

with two deep ditches and suitable dykes on the accessible sides. This is one of the posts that defended the Ordovices and their successors from the incursions of the Romans. These stations are very numerous in this county, and easily distinguished by their conforming to the shape of hills, and being generally unprovided with water.

Returning on our road, at the distance of about six miles from Mold, we pass through Hope, or Queen's Hope, or East Hope, a small village, having its church dedicated to Saint Cynfarch, son of Meirchion, who lived about the middle of the fifth century, which, with the parish, formerly belonged to the Crown; the ground is rather hilly, but the vallies are fertile in corn and grass. At the termination of the village are some picturesque remains of its ancient castle, in which Eleanor, the Queen of Edward the First, lodged on her way to Caernarvon, where her husband sent her, to give the Welsh a ruler born among them. Soon after the surrender of the castle to Edward the First, in 1282, the king bestowed it on her: from whence the place took the name of Queen's Hope. Here is a fine old bridge over the river Alun, near the extremity of the village, from whence may be had a fine view of the place, said to have been a Roman station, forming a slope to the river, having three parallel streets, intersected by three others at right angles. Some Roman bricks were lately found in the ruins of an old house in the village, and large beds of iron cinders, supposed to be from the works of the Romans at Caer Estyn, in this parish. The Welsh name of the parish is Estyn. A Roman road likewise points from the village towards Mold, and is visible more than once in the fields near Plâs Têg, with an artificial mound close on its course. This place is supposed to have been Caer Gaur-lle, or "Camp of the Great Legion," a name bestowed by the Britons on the 20th legion, analagous to Victrix: giving it the strength of a giant. About a mile west of Hope is Plâs Têg, the ancient seat of the Trevor family. The building is ascribed to Inigo Jones, in the year 1610, and had formerly a hall in the centre, 43 feet by 23 feet, but now only inhabited by a farmer. It is erected round a square court, with four towers at the corners, having in each a room 23 feet by 19 feet, with closets 15 feet and a half in circumference.

Returning on our road, at the distance of one mile, we arrive at Caergwrle, once a flourishing town, and which continued such until Wrexham became so much frequented, which has been the means of reducing this place to its present state. It is by the learned asserted, that Caergwrle was formerly a Roman station: probably an out post to Deva, as some tiles were found here many years since, inscribed "LEGIO XX." which proves it to have been of Roman origin. Besides the British name Caergwrle, or "The Camp of the Great Legion," the ruins of a castle are still yet to be seen, on the summit of a high rock, a little distance off; but the remains are few, and not important; yet such as sufficiently indicate the building to have been of

of great extent. The rock on which this fortress was built is a composition somewhat singular, being a grit stone, so exceedingly coarse as to have much the appearance of pebbles among mortar. The founder of this castle is not known, although by its construction we might, without hesitation, pronounce it to be of British origin, and probably built by Gruffydd Maelor in the reign of Owen Gwynedd, between 1137 and 1169. Edward the First bestowed the castle on David ap Gruffydd, brother to the last prince of Wales: but when David took up arms, in conjunction with his brother, against Edward, in 1282, it was invested, and surrendered to the king, after a fortnight's siege: not long after this reversion it appears to have been burnt by a casual fire, but was again rebuilt, and given by Edward the Second to Sir John Stanley. In this parish are some extensive lime quarries, in which are frequently found a species of the fossil called *entrochi*, in shape somewhat cylindrical, about one inch long, and formed of a number of round joints.

RUDDLAN,

(the church of which is dedicated to Saint Mary,) lies on a flat in the middle of the Vale of Clwyd, and on the eastern bank of the river, two miles from its influx with the sea, where it is sufficiently wide to permit vessels at high water to ride under the bridges. This was once a considerable town, but now only a small borough, which contributes to elect a member for Flint. Ruddlan derived much importance from its elegant castle, wherein Edward the First kept three christmases. It is a square building, erected with red stone, surrounded by a double ditch on the north, with a strong wall and foss all round. Below the hill, on the river side, is a square tower called Twr-y-Silod, and another in the castle is called Twr-y-Brennin, or "The King's Tower." The walls enclose an irregular square, with galleries and appurtenances all round; the north wall appears much shattered, but the other two are pretty entire. To the south of the castle they shew a mount called Tut-hill, from whence the inhabitants say it was battered; but it appears a more ancient fortification, surrounded by a deep ditch including the abbey: it may have been the residence of the ancient Welsh princes, perhaps burnt by Harold in 1054, and the ships in the harbour destroyed at the same time. This castle was built by Robert de Rodelent, but soon after burnt by Gruffydd ap Cynan, Prince of Wales, and Randal Earl of Chester. Subsequent to this, Henry the Second rebuilt or fortified this castle, where Giraldus Cambrensis says he was nobly entertained. Queen Eleanor was also delivered of a princess here in 1283. Northumberland seized this castle in 1399, previous to the deposition of Richard the Second, who, with his retinue, partook of refreshment here on their way to Flint castle. At a private dwelling house in this place they shew the gable of a building, in which it is said Edward the First held

held the parliament that passed the statute of Ruddlan about 1284, which is no more than regulations made by the king in council for the future government of Wales, which, he informs us in the preamble, was then totally subdued. Of this place only one gothic window now remains to distinguish it from a neighbouring barn, while the hall that once contained the parliament of England is now filled with bark to supply a tan-yard. There is another old house on the north side of the castle, where they say the king resided when one Gruffydd Llwyd ap Rhŷs brought him information of the queen's safe delivery at Caernarvon Castle, for which the king immediately knighted him. —More to the south are the remains of a Priory of Black Monks, founded before 1268. Below the town, on a large marsh, was fought the famous battle (in 794) between Prince Caradoc and the Saxons under Offa King of Mercia, in which the latter was killed and a great number of his army slain. On this occasion the fine plaintive Welsh tune called Morfa-Ruddlan was composed, descriptive of the sanguinary battle on this marsh. At Ruddlan is a bridge consisting of two arches, built or rebuilt in 1595, with the arms of Hughes, Bishop of Saint Asaph, on one of the battlements.

Two miles and a half north-east of Ruddlan is Disserth, a small village situate among hills, from whose top falls a beautiful cascade, rising from a small well called Ffynnon Asa, or "Saint Asaph's Well," in a dingle in Cwm parish, one mile off: its perpendicular height is seventeen yards, concealed between two arches of the rock behind which it has worn itself a passage. In a romantic bottom, and finely overshaded with yew-trees, stands the church or chapel, dedicated to Saint Bridget, with some good paintings in the east window. In the churchyard is an ancient cross, adorned with wreaths; another with some traces of a human figure, now placed as a stile in the churchyard; on the altar tomb is cut a rude cross and sword. To the north of this village are some small remains of Gerri Castle, or Castell y Craig, which appears to have been fortified by Henry III. in 1246. At the siege of this castle was slain Eineon ap Ririd Flaidd, to whom some attribute the cross erected on the spot called Croes Eineon, supposed to be that which now forms the stile before mentioned.

Returning on our road we proceed in an easterly direction, and at the distance of about five miles pass through Newmarket, having its church dedicated to Saint Michael. It is a small town, almost the entire erection of its then owner, John Wynne, Esq. of Gob, who died in the last century. The ancient name of this parish is Trelawnyd. The church is a very antique building, with a handsome old cross in the church-yard. Here is one of the charity schools founded and opened in 1726 by Dr. Daniel Williams, a dissenting minister, with an endowment of £8 per annum, a charity which he extended to every county in North Wales, distinguishing that at Wrexham, the place of his birth, by an annual salary of £15. From the town is an ascent

ascent called Copar'leni, on whose summit is an enormous carnedd or tumulus, formed of limestones. It was probably the site of a specula, or a memorial of some chieftain, or it might have been a place for signals by fire, to announce the approach of an enemy by sea. The tract from thence to Caerwys was certainly a field of battle, for no place in Wales exhibits an equal quantity of tumuli, and all sepulchral: perhaps in this place was the great slaughter of the Ordovices by Agricola.

About six miles from Newmarket, and nearly two to the left of the road, is Downing, situate among woods, in the parish of Whiteford, the church of which is dedicated to Saint Mary; but Downing is principally known to the world as the seat of the late Thomas Pennant, Esq. to whose indefatigable researches the natural history and topography of Great Britain are under many obligations; he was born on the 14th June, 1726, at Downing, and there he closed his useful life in the year 1794. Downing is also the principal house in the township, and was built about the year 1627, but the present name is evidently a corruption of Tre-Eden-Owain, the name of the township in which it stands. The house was founded by John Pennant, of Bychton, who, marrying a rich heiress of this place, erected an elegant mansion with stone brought from a dingle called Nant-y-bi, opposite the modern edifice; the present structure is erected in the form of a Roman H, a mode of architecture common in Wales at that period, with this ancient and pious motto on the front:—"Heb Dduw heb ddim, a Duw a digon:" signifying,—"Without God there is nothing: with God enough." The grounds are very extensive, with walks along fine sweet-swelling lands beneath the shady deep of glens, or through the contracted meads which meander quite to the shore, with fine views towards the hills and the ancient Pharos on Garreg: over the channel of the Dee are the Hilbree isles, on one of which are some remains of a cell of Benedictines: but the sea view is still more animated with the sight of numerous fleets entering and sailing out of Liverpool. Below the house are the ruins of the abbey of Malandina, which add considerable beauty to the view. The house has latterly been considerably improved, richly furnished with antique carvings, and specimens of the horns of all the European beasts of chase: the library contains a numerous and choice collection of books, chiefly of natural history, with a great collection of MSS. being solely the labour and industry of the late Thomas Pennant, Esq.: in the hall are some good pictures by Peter Paillow, an excellent painter of animals and birds: the parlour is embellished with portraits and paintings mostly reduced from originals by the ingenious Moses Griffith, an untaught genius of North Wales, who accompanied Mr. Pennant in most of his tours through England, Scotland, and Wales. On a hill there is a cavern, supposed to have been made by the Romans when they worked these and the neighbouring

bouring mines. Mynydd Garreg, a high hill about two miles to the north-east of Downing, in a very conspicuous part of the country, has on its summit a Pharos, erected by the Romans to conduct navigators to and from the Deva. It is tolerably entire, and built of limestone bedded in hard mortar, of a circular form and considerable height; the inner diameter is twelve feet, the walls three feet thick, with the doors or entrances opposite each other, and over them square funnels like chimnies, opening on the outside about half way up, and on each side a window. About four feet from the ground are three circular holes through the whole wall, lined with mortar, very frequent in Roman buildings: within are traces of a stair-case, leading to the upper story, in which are eight small square openings, cased with free stone, each separated by wooden pannels, the grooves of which only remain: in each of these partitions were placed the lights, which the Romans thought necessary to keep distinct, lest the seamen should take it for a star. To this building are evidently a broad raised road, pointing from the east, and near its upper end are marks of a trench round the whole.

About one mile and a half north of this building is Mostyn Hall, a seat belonging to a family of that name, lineally descended from Tudor Trevor, Earl of Hereford before the conquest, and which family first settled here in the reign of Richard the Second, though they did not assume the name of Mostyn till the reign of Henry the Eighth. The old mansion has a venerable appearance; and the park is small, but beautifully broken and clothed in various parts with fine oaks and magnificent beeches. The ground around slopes finely to the sea, facing the north-east, where trees grow close to the water edge; the house is placed about half a mile from the shore, and built on so singular a plan that it is almost impossible to describe this curious structure. It consists of an old hall for servants, and had formerly a chapel on the outside, now converted into bed rooms: on the porch, said to be re-built in 1628, are the arms of the four great alliances of the family, rudely cut in stone, which seem to have been copied from an original on the great chimney piece in the hall. When the house was built is uncertain, but it is supposed in the early time of Henry the Sixth, or perhaps more anciently. In many places the walls are furnished with ancient guns, swords, pikes, helmets, breast plates, funeral achievements; and a variety of the spoils of the chase, particularly a falcon, which is nailed against the wall of the room, with two bells, one hung to each foot, and which, with these incumbrances, flew from its owner in the county of Angus, on 24th September, 1772, and was killed near this house on the 26th. At the end of the gallery is a great room, remarkable for being the place where Henry Earl of Richmond laid the foundation of his plan to overthrow the House of York; but while he was at Mostyn, Richard the Third's party arrived, so that he had but just time to leap out of a back

back window and make his escape through a hole, called to this day the king's window. In 1631, Sir Roger Mostyn, Baronet, made a very handsome addition to this house by erecting a large square appendage, containing six bed rooms, a handsome eating room, and a drawing room, with a large bow window in the middle of each: opposite to one of the windows is an elegant fire-place, and above are the arms of the numerous alliances of the family beautifully executed in stucco, dated 1632; to the preceding might be added a long catalogue of paintings, executed by some of the first artists; besides an extensive and valuable library of ancient classics, medallic histories, gems, and a variety of polite literature, no where else to be found, particularly manuscripts, beautifully written and illuminated. The house stands in a township of the same name, called by the Welsh Tre-Mostyn. The estate came into the family by the marriage of Ievan Vychan, of Pengwern, near Llangollen, with Angharad, heiress of Hywel ap Tudor ap Ithol Vychan, of Mostyn, in the reign of Richard the Second. Hywel derived his descent from Edwin Lord of Tegeingl, or Englefield; his grandfather Ithel was a person of great property at the time of the conquest of the principality, and in 1301 did homage at Chester to Edward prince of Wales for his lands at Northop and Mostyn. In the highest part of this township is the curious cross called Maen Achwynfan, or "the stone of lamentation:" it stands in a small field, opposite to the gate which opens from the turnpike-road into Garreg, and takes its name, in all probability, from the penances which were so often finished before such sacred pillars. It is twelve feet high, two feet four inches at the bottom, and ten inches thick; the base is sunk in another stone, and the top is round, it is of an elegant form and sculpture: near to it is an ancient chapel, now a farm-house, called Gelli-wig, or "the hazel grove," the name of an adjacent tract: this chapel might have had a relation to the cross, as well as being a place for performance of divine service for the Abbot of Basingwerk, who had a house at no great distance. The township of Tre'r Abbot was exempt from the payment of tithes by a modus originally granted by the Abbot of Basingwerk, but which, by negligence, is now totally lost. The church stands in the township of Tre Llan, and consists of a nave with a good plain tower-steeple, it has besides a side aisle, built by Blithyn Drow, of the house of Mostyn, to whom that part belongs.

Returning from this direction, at the distance of about eleven miles from Newmarket, we pass through

HOLYWELL, OTHERWISE TRE-FFYNNON,

otherwise Ffynnon Gwen-Vrewi, a handsome well-built town, consisting principally of one long street running from east to west. It is chiefly noticed for its celebrated spring, called "Saint Winifred's Well," which breaks out with great rapidity from under a hill, discharging

charging twenty-two tons of water in a minute. It rises in a long bason, twelve feet by seven, a stone wall with pillars supporting the roof, forming a walk all round to the chapel. The roof over this wall is exqusitely carved in stone, with the legend of Saint Winifred, and seven sculptures alluding to the house of Stanley, who erected it prior to the year 1495; and the beautiful Gothic chapel was built over it in the time of Henry the Seventh by the Countess of Richmond. The roof is likewise hung round with crutches and hand-barrows, said to be left by persons who have received a perfect cure by the use of the water. On the hill above stands the church, dedicated to Saint Winifred, who was the daughter of one Thewith, a petty prince in those parts, and of Wenlo his wife, sister to Saint Beuno, who was one of the most distinguished saints of Wales. Winifred was instructed in the christian religion by her uncle Saint Beuno: but, according to the legend, being remarkably beautiful, Caradoc, the son of king Allen, fell desperately in love with her, and finding her one day alone, he solicited her to comply with his wishes. Astonished at his request, she fled out of the house to the church built by her uncle Beuno, but before she got down the hill, the prince overtook her, and, in the violence of disappointed passion, with his sword struck off her head, which falling to the ground, caused this stream of water to gush from the place where the head rested: the moss around diffused a fragrant smell, and her blood spotted the stones, which, like the flowers of Adonis, annually commemorate the fact by assuming colours unknown to them at other periods. As soon as Saint Beuno recovered from his surprise, at seing this stream and the bleeding head, he immediately took hold of it, and ran up the hill, sending the murderer to the devil by his curses, while by his power he raised the murdered maid, and replaced her head. After this she took the veil, and maintained a company of virgins, besides being assured by her uncle Beuno to have two immortal privileges, namely—

1st. That the blood should never be washed out of the stones.
2d. That her merit should be prevalent all over the world.

Seven years after this she removed to Gwytherin, in Denbighshire, where she was buried; four rude upright stones are now shewn there as St. Winifred's tomb. In the reign of King Stephen her body was removed to the Abbey of Saint Peter and Saint Paul in Shrewsbury. This fine spring is now as much esteemed by the manufacturer, as it was formerly for its miraculous powers, and is, in its short course to the Dee, made subservient to the purposes of manufacture, by turning water mills for cotton works, forges, smelting works, and other machinery. During the reign of pilgrimage nothing but a corn mill, the property of the monks, was worked on the stream. It is said that the well alluded to never freezes, or scarcely varies in the quantity of water in drought or after the greatest rains. Above the church

church is a hill called Bryn y Castell, narrow and very steep at the side, projecting at the end over the little valley. On this hill might have stood the castle of Tre-ffynnon, which was built by Randal Earl of Chester in the year 1210, but there are not at present any vestiges left. An eminence called Bryn Dychwelwch is traditionally said to have been the place from which Henry the Second gave his order for retreat when he was engaged with the Welsh, in 1157, with his whole army at Coleshill, in the same difficulties he had just experienced in the depth of Coed Iolo.

About one mile east of Holywell is Basingwerke Abbey, or Maes Glâs (Green Field). It is beautifully situated in a meadow between two hills, on the eastern side of the mouth of Holywell river. The ruins stand on a gentle eminence, commanding a fine view of the Chester channel, and surrounded with rich pastures, besides a happy disposition of ancient groves of trees on every side, and a profusion of sycamores: but in its dilapidated walls there is evidently a mixture of architecture, for the greater part of that now standing appears to be as old as the original foundation. The doors and some of the lower arches are semicircular, simple and unornamented; the windows long, pointed, and narrow. The south wall of the cross aisle, with a doorway and one pointed arch, are all that remain of the church, which stood on the east side of the abbey; but the foundations shew several specimens of mixed architecture, or what is generally termed Saxon and Gothic. The abbey was founded, according to the opinion of Bishop Tanner, in 1113, by Randal the second Earl of Chester; according to Fleetwood and others, by Henry the Second; but Mr. Pennant believes it to have been of much higher antiquity, and to derive its origin from one of the Welsh princes. Its inhabitants were of the Cistercian order, and Randal was no doubt a supporter of it. Within these few years a great part of the refectory and dormitory were to be seen, likewise a shell of a chapel belonging to the Knights Templars, with several lancet windows to the west, the whole of which are now nearly destroyed, and what remains is converted into a barn. The abbey was valued at £150. 7s. 0d. and its abbot had been honoured by being summoned to parliament five times by Edward the First. A part of this abbey was inhabited about one hundred years past, but pulled down by the order of Lady Mostyn, to build a house near the ruins. Here is still to be seen an old brick barn, strengthened with timber, said to have been the monks' grainery, and where is kept an epitaph on George the son of Lord Petre, who died in 1647. It is worthy of notice that the monks of this abbey have the honour of being the first inventors of the fable of Saint Winifred, which brought great riches to the monastery, as indulgencies were granted by the Roman Pontiffs in 1240 to all who would make a pilgrimage to the Holy Well. Two of the abbots were Thomas ap Davydd Pennant, and Nicholas his son: the father is celebrated

celebrated for his munificence and hospitality by two Welsh bards, Guttain Owain and Tudor Aled, who flourished about the year 1480. The castle was of importance in the wars between the English and the Welsh. The land to the sea is steeply sloped; the west side was protected by a deep gully, formed by the river; and the south by a vast ditch, called Wat's dyke. Vestiges of the fortress appear in the foundation of a wall on the edge of the ditch, and on the road-side near the turnpike-gate, opposite to the ruins of the abbey. Lord Lyttelton says that the founder was an Earl of Chester. In 1165 the gallant prince Owain Gwynedd laid siege to it, took and levelled it to the ground; after which the name no more occurs as a fortress.

SAINT ASAPH, OR LLAN ELWY,

is a small town or city, situate on the banks of the river Elwy, and the cathedral is erected on its summit; the river Clwyd runs on the eastern side, and the Elwy on its western: the township in which it stands is called Brŷn-Paulin, and one part of it Bron-ŷr-Wylva, "the eminence of the Watch Tower." Mr. Pennant conjectures it might have been an encampment of Paulinus, when on his way to and from Mona. According to Bishop Tanner, Kentigern, bishop of Glasgow, being driven out of Scotland, founded an episcopal see and monastery here, about the middle of the sixth century, and became the first bishop. Upon his return into Scotland, he made Asaph, (being grandson of Pabo Post Prydain,) an eminently holy and good man, his successor, and from him both the church and place has been called Saint Asaph; but from the death of Saint Asaph, A. D. 596, there is no account of the monastery, and little or no account of any bishops, till the year 1143; and though there has been a regular and constant succession from that time, yet, by reason of the wars between the English and Welsh and Owain Glyndwr's rebellion, the cathedral church, with the bishop's and canons' houses were more than once destroyed, and for many years in ruins. Upon one of these devastations, or the fears of it, Bishop Anian the Second endeavoured, in 1278, to remove the see to Ruddlan, five miles to the north-west, and King Edward the First granted his licence for it in the year 1284, and promised both ground for the church and the necessary offices, and one thousand marks towards the buildings; but this did not take effect. The see was formerly a very wealthy see, but its revenues were greatly lessened by the profusion of Bishop Parfew, who (in 1536) alienated much of the lands belonging to it. It was valued (26th Henry VIII.) at £202. 10s. 6d. in the whole, and at £187. 11s 6d. clear, which is its present value in the king's books, but it is computed to be worth £2000 per annum. The most remarkable edifice is the present cathedral, built chiefly since 1441, being in length 182 feet, and in breadth 50; the western tower is 93 feet high, but on the whole it appears a simple inelegant building, containing

taining little worth enquiry except three monuments, for Bishops Owen, who died in 1512, Griffith in 1666, and Barrow in 1680. The Dean and Chapter, out of a fund vested in them for that purpose, rebuilt the choir, the eastern window of which is copied from Tintern Abbey. The members of this chapter are the dean, archdeacon (who is also bishop), six prebendaries, chancellor, and seven canons, an organist, four lay clerks or singing men, four choristers, and other officers. It is perhaps peculiar to Saint Asaph, that the cathedral is not used for a parish church, like all the rest of the Welsh cathedrals; but the parish church stands a little distance from it, within the town, and two aisles called Eglwys Asaph and Eglwys Kentigern, from the saints of those names, frequently mentioned in the Welsh calendar. In the parish church is a tomb ornamented with foliage, and bearing a shield with a lion rampant; inscribed around it are these words—"Hic jacet Ranulfus de Smalwode," and beneath the shield passes a sword, held by a hand: it is said to have been brought from Ruddlan. The old palace, which was not very magnificent, was rebuilt by Bishop David ab Owen in 1503, after it had lain in ruins for one hundred years. This building being out of repair and very inconvenient, Bishop Bagot built a handsome and comfortable palace about the year 1795.

Three miles to the south-east of Saint Asaph we pass on our right

CAERWYS,

or Caer-ar-wŷs, *i. e.* "The Fort above the Waters;" although others say the name of this place is derived from Caer "a city," and Gwŷs "a summons," and that it appears to have been a place of judicature, and particularly a Roman station. It now consists of four spacious streets, crossing each other at right angles; and the parish church is dedicated to St. Michael. Roman coins have been frequently found here, and many tumuli are round it and in the neighbourhood. In a wood near this town is a well called Saint Michael's, close to a very romantic rock, on which a Roman catholic chapel is supposed to have been once situated, and concerning which some superstitious ideas are still entertained: as persons go early on Easter morning to drink the rock water mixed with sugar. Caerwys is also celebrated as the place of Eisteddfod, or British Olympics, where the sessions of bards and minstrels were held for many centuries. It was chosen for this purpose on account of its having been the princely residence of Llywelyn ap Gruffydd. In this contest none but bards of merit and skilful minstrels were permitted to exhibit before the appointed judges, whose approbation could decide on their abilities, and confer suitable degrees and rewards, with permission to exercise their talents before the princes, nobility, and gentry of the principality; without which no one was admitted to that distinction. The judges were appointed by a commission from the prince, and after the conquest of Wales

Wales by Edward the First, the English kings sanctioned their Eisteddfod as an institution likely to soften the manners of a fierce and warlike people. Previous to this we find Gruffydd ap Cynan, contemporary with King John, enacted that no person should follow the profession of a bard or minstrel who was not regularly admitted by the Eisteddfod, which was held once in three years; neither were they allowed to degrade the profession by following any other occupation. In 1568 a commission was granted by Queen Elizabeth for holding an Eisteddfod at Caerwŷs, which is still in the possession of Sir Thomas Mostyn, together with a silver harp, containing strings equal to the number of the muses, and such as was generally bestowed on the *first of the faculty* in ancient times. Another Eisteddfod was held prior to this period, in the 15th year of Henry the Eighth, in which Richard ap Howell ap Ivan Vychan, of Mostyn, Sir William Gruffydd, of Penrhyn, and Sir Robert Salisbury presided, assisted by Gruffydd ap Evan ap Llewelyn Vychan and Tyder (or Tudor) Aled, two bards. The last meeting at Caerwŷs was in consequence of a notice published by the Gentlemen of the Gwyneddigion or North Wales Society (instituted for the encouragement of Welsh Literature) in London, which fixed the Congress or Eisteddfod to commence on Tuesday, the 29th May, 1798, and, according to ancient custom, was proclaimed twelve months and a day prior to the day appointed. On this occasion the town-hall was neatly prepared for the reception of a numerous and respectable company. The subjects were fixed upon by the Gwyneddigion Society, which, as might be expected, when originating from that respectable body, produced numerous candidates, whose productions were animated and of considerable merit. The number of bards that attended this Eisteddfod amounted to twenty, vocal performers eighteen, and harpers twelve, all of whom acquitted themselves so extremely well, that several connoisseurs in music who were present the three days it continued declared that they never recollected a contest of this nature better maintained or afford more rational amusement.

At the distance of about eight miles from Caerwŷs we pass through the village of Northop; six miles beyond which we arrive at Hawarden, called by the Welsh Penarddhalawg, a large well-paved town, with the ruins of an old castle at the east end, called in Welsh Pen-y-Llwch, or (vulgarly) Pennard y-lâs, commanding an extensive prospect towards the Dee. It was built soon after the Norman conquest, and has been very strong, being situated on a high hill in Sir William Glynn's park, and surrounded by a double ditch now filled with trees, and having a wall on the innermost side. On the summit is a semi-circular tower, commanding an extensive prospect, but only a small part of the outer wall remains. Henry the Sixth granted the castle to Sir Thomas Stanley, in whose family it continued during

during the civil wars; but after the execution of Thomas Stanley, Earl of Derby, it was purchased by Sergeant Glynn, of the family of Glynn-Llivon, whose descendants are its present possessors. It was surrendered to the King's troops in 1643, but retaken after the battle of Chester in 1645. On some disturbances arising between the Parliamentary soldiers in 1647, it was dismantled; and was entirely spoiled by Sir William Glynn in 1680. At present a little more than the walls and the keep remain, particularly the latter, which is more elevated and perfect than the other parts of the building, and has had within these few years a room elegantly fitted up in the modern style, with some painted statues, the whole of which do but ill accord with the shattered ruins around them. West of the church, by the road side, is a mount called Truman's Hill, with a cavity on its summit like a camp.

About one mile to the north-east of Hawarden is Eulo (or Iolo) Castle, situate on the road side, two miles from Northop: it is a small double fortress, with a square area and two round towers. In the adjoining field and wood, called Coed-Eulo, Henry the Second received a severe repulse, after he attempted to cut off the retreat of Owen Gwynedd, who was retiring to a place near Saint Asaph, now called Cil-Owen, or Owen's Retreat. This small place is chiefly noted for its manufacture of earthenware, which is carried on to a very great extent.

Bangor-Iscoed is situate in a detached part of the county, separated by the interposition of Denbighshire, and is two miles from Overton, on the banks of the Dee, which flows under a handsome stone bridge of five arches. Bangor is chiefly celebrated as having been the site of one of the most famous monasteries in the kingdom, founded, as it is supposed, by Lucius, son of Coel, the first Christian King in Britain, established for the increase of learning and preservation of the christian faith in this realm about the year 180. It was originally founded for an university, but afterwards converted into a monastery by Cynwyl about the year 530, who was made the first abbot. This monastery was remarkable for its valuable library, and, from its great age and number of learned men, was truly acknowledged (says Speed) to be the mother of all others in the world. Nennius, who wrote the *History of Britain*, extant at this day, was one of the abbots; and when Augustine the monk was commissioned by Gregory the First, about 596, to convert the English Saxons to christianity, the monastery of Bangor was reported to be in a very flourishing state, containing no less than two thousand four hundred monks, one hundred of which in their turns passed one hour in devotion, so that the whole twenty-four hours of every day were employed in sacred duties. After the battle of Chester, fought by the victorious Etheldred, King of Northumbria, a great number of this religious society were slain, which proved most fatal to this establishment,

establishment, as the monastery appears to have gone into gradual decay after this event; for William of Malmesbury, who lived soon after the Norman conquest, reports, that in his time there remained only a few relics of its ancient greatness; but there was then an immense heap of rubbish, the like of which was no where to be found. In Leland's time the site appears to have been ploughed ground; and nearly a mile in compass the plough often turned up bones of the monks, and in digging pieces of their clothes were found in sepulchres. He also says that Roman coins were discovered here in his time, and old foundations of squared stones were then visible in several places. This place is supposed to be the site of Bovium, a famous Roman station; but it is said there are at present not the least remains of a monastery, city, or Roman station. The church of Bangor (dedicated to Saint Dinoeth) is a handsome structure of the time of King Henry the Seventh. In *Pennant's Tour* are representations of four stone coffin lids dug up here in his time. In this parish is a handsome bridge over the Dee, consisting of five arches, built in 1658.

Bôdfair, or Bôdvair, or Bôdvary, or Bôdfary, hath its church dedicated to Saint Stephen. It is situate near the junction of the Chwiler with the Clwyd. The Varis of Richard of Cirencester is supposed to have been near this place. The country about Maes-Maenan is singularly fine; and here Llewelyn ap Gruffydd is said to have resided, in a house whose foundations till within a few years were to be seen in an adjacent meadow.

Cwm, "a hollow," or "dingle."—Ffynon Asaph, or Saint Asaph's Well, a fountain inclosed with stone, in a polygonal form, is sometimes resorted to for the cure of rheumatic and nervous complaints; the water is remarkably cold, and sufficiently powerful to turn a mill in the driest season, and does actually turn one within a few yards of its source. On Moel-Hiraddug, a hill of a conical form, are the remains of a British fortress, and which is also remarkable for having on its summit a bed of bright and beautiful but brittle red spar. Cwm church is embosomed by hills, and fronts the Vale of Clwyd. On a very ancient stone in the churchyard is this inscription—"Hic jacet Tangwistl uxor Llewelyn ap Inir."

Halkin, properly called Helygen, *i. e.* "The Willow," hath its church dedicated to Saint Mary. At the Conquest, according to Domesday, this place was called Alchone, from which probably the word Halkin is derived. The first place of any note which is in this parish is a small hamlet called Y-Pentre, or "The Village," and is generally distinguished from Llan, the church, or Llandre, the assemblage of houses near it. This took its rise in the last century, and was much increased by the concourse of miners on the discovery of a rich vein in the adjacent fields. Near it is Halkin mountain, a vast

vast tract of land, which runs into three other parishes. Mr. Pennant seems to be of opinion that a saint in the British calendar, called Lugan, gave name to this place, but no such name can be discovered in the catalogue called *Buchedd y Saint*. On the summit of a hill is a strong British fortress, called Moel-y-Gaer, which is surrounded with a great fosse and dyke of a circular form.—In this parish, above the village, is the most elegant castellated mansion of Lord Grosvenor, Lord Lieutenant of the County.

Hanmer hath its church dedicated to Saint Chad or Saint Chedde, who were not one but two persons, both Saxons, and brothers, who lived in the year 660. Chedde, the elder, was bishop of London, and a very active promoter of christianity among the East Saxons; Chad, the younger brother, who was considerably the longer liver, was bishop of Lichfield, remarkable for converting Wolfhere, king of Mercia: the story of whose cruelty in killing his sons, and the particulars of his conversion, were, before the civil wars, painted in Peterborough church windows, where he built a monastery. Davydd ap Edmund, a poet, who obtained the chair at the Caermarthen Eisteddfod about the middle of the fifteenth century, was a native of this parish; many of his compositions are preserved, which discover considerable genius and fancy. This parish is extremely beautiful and varied, and comprises a lake of 50 acres, to which the place is supposed to owe its name: in the church are several monuments to the memory of the Hanmer family; in this parish is Bettisfield, the seat of Sir John Hanmer, Bart.; also Gredington, the seat of Lord Kenyon.

Kilcen or Cilcein hath its church dedicated to Saint Mary, which is remarkable for its carved roof, and is said to have been brought from the church at Basingwerk abbey, on the dissolution, and thus to have fulfilled a prophecy of Robin Ddu, or Robert the Black, a bard, who, when he saw it put up by the Monks, observed that "it would be very well for a church beneath Moel Vamma." In this parish is the noted Ffynnon Leinw, or flowing well, mentioned by Camden for its flux and reflux; but it appears from Mr. Pennant that this singularity has ceased for some time.—Kilcen Hall, near this well, was at one time the seat of a branch of the Mostyn family; it afterwards became the property of Mr. Edwards, of Pentre, in Montgomeryshire, in right of his wife Charlotte Mostyn, heiress of the place.

Llan Asaph or Llanasa hath its church dedicated to Saint Asaph and Saint Kentigern: it is situate upon the Irish sea, and has a lighthouse at the point of Air, near the entrance of the Dee. Laurence Child, Bishop of Saint Asaph in 1385, procured the impropriation of this church to supply his cathedral with lights, and to repair the ruins occasioned by the wars. In the hamlet of Gwyspyr are the ruins of a small chapel. There is a tradition, that the extent of Gronant Moor

was

was so great, that the people on the Welsh side could hold conversation over the channel with those of Cheshire, previous to its being reduced to its present scanty limits by the encroachments of the sea. The parish was possessed by the See of Saint Asaph, by virtue of a grant made by Edward the Black Prince, son of Edward the Third, to Llewelyn ap Madog, elected Bishop of Saint Asaph in 1357. The inundation of the sea happened before the reign of Henry the Fifth; previous to which time the Bishop paid annually into the Exchequer of Chester, as an acknowledgment, twenty marks; but Henry in 1414, and Henry the Sixth in 1445, and 1451, in consideration of the misfortune, released the See from that rent. If this account did not remain an incontestible proof of the ravages of the ocean on this part of the country, there exists natural ones, that would give reasonable grounds for suspicion. The Hyle sands, which run from twelve to fourteen miles parallel with the narrow hundred of Wirral, in Cheshire, and are divided from Wales by a narrow channel, were once, in all probability, part of the firm land of England. A few miles to the west of Gronant Moor, under the parish of Abergele, in Denbighshire, are to be seen at low water, very remote from the shore, and bedded in the sand, immense numbers of oak trees; and in the churchyard wall of Abergele, is an epitaph with date, in Welsh, signifying that the person who was interred there lived three miles to the north of that spot, a tract now entirely possessed by the sea. A little beyond Gronant is the old seat of Nant, formerly occupied by the Conways, a branch of the Conways of Bryn-Euryn, near Llandrillo in Rhôs, descended from Gruffydd Goch (the red), Lord of Rhôs and Rhuvoniog. The following gentlemen's seats are in this parish: —Talacre, a newly erected mansion belonging to Sir Edward Mostyn, Bart. built near the site of an old house in the Elizabethan style, the paternal seat of this branch of the Mostyn family; the stone of which it is formed was found upon the spot, and is allowed to be as beautiful as any in the kingdom. The interior of this house, when in an unfinished state, was accidentally burnt down on the morning of Wednesday, the 12th of September, 1827; it is supposed that the fire originated in some of the rooms where the carpenters and plasterers were employed the day preceding. Golden Grove, the old seat of the ancient family of Morgan; of this family was Captain Morgan, who fell upon Tegau mountain in the cause of Charles the First, and lies there buried to the north of Llynn Helyg. Gyrn, the newly-erected mansion of John Douglas, Esq.: here is a most magnificent room, purposely built for a very valuable collection of paintings by the most eminent masters of the celebrated schools in Europe.

Nannerch hath its church dedicated to Saint Mary. In the church is a monument to the memory of Charlotte Theophila Mostyn, wife of Richard Mostyn, Esq. a former owner of Penbedw, and daughter of

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and co-heiress (with her sister Margaretta Maria, who married Sir John Conway, of Bodtruddan,) to John Digby, son of the famous Sir Kenelm Digby, by which means several curious MSS. of that gentleman's collection were brought into North Wales. In the chancel window were formerly these words,—"Orate pro bono statu, Howell ap John ap Dd ap Ithel," who is thought to have been founder of the church. Penbedw is situate in a manor of the same name, granted July 17th, 1544, by Henry the Eighth, and witnessed by Queen Catherine Parr, to Pyers ap Howel otherwise Peter Mostyn, of Wespre, in consideration of the payment of £7,300 in hand paid. The grant recites that "it had been parcel of the possessions of the Earl of Kent, in the commot of Dogvylyn, in the county of Denbigh." The name of this parish is derived from Nan, for Nant, "a dingle;" and erch, "gloomy."

OVERTON,

or Wrtin Vadog hath its church dedicated to Saint Mary. The inhabitants of Knolton and Overton Foreign, paying scot and lot in the parish of Overton, have a right to vote for a member of parliament for the town of Flint. There are no remains of the castle, which stood in a field still called Castle Field: tradition says that this place was at one time the residence of Madog ap Meredydd, Prince of Powys and Lord of Overton; on which account it was called Overton Madock. The church is a handsome building, and the churchyard is reckoned one of the wonders of Wales, on account of the number of yew trees growing in it. A certain spot near Sodyllt, not far from this place, divides England and Wales; the provinces of Canterbury and York; the dioceses of Lichfield and Coventry, Chester, and Saint Asaph; and the counties of Salop, Flint, and Denbigh; the hundreds of Oswestry, Maelor, and Bromfield; the parishes of Ellesmere, Overton, and Erbistock; and the townships of Dudleston, Knolton, and Erbistock.

Threap Wood.—This tract for many years had the ill fortune to be extra-parochial, but in the year 1811 a chapel was built upon the common and endowed: it is in the counties of Chester and Flint; this parish is surrounded by the parishes of Malpas, Hanmer, and Worthenbury, but it belonged to neither till, by the militia acts, it was decreed to be in the last, for the purpose of the militia only; by the mutiny acts, however, it is annexed to the parish of Malpas. The Wich-brook rises in part of the parish of Malpas, but in the county of Flint, near the Wiches, where there are brine springs and salt works.

Tremeirchion (the town of Meirchion), or Dinas Meirchion (the fort of Meirchion), hath its church dedicated to the Holy Trinity.—In the church, under a handsome gothic arch, lies in priestly vestments, well executed, a representation of the figure of David Ddu (or "the black"),

black"), of Hiraddug, underneath is inscribed—"Hic jacet David ab Roderic ab Madoc."—He was vicar of this place, and dignitary of Saint Asaph, a prophet and a poet, he flourished between 1310 and 1360; a poetical translation of the office of the virgin, written by him, is printed in the *Welsh Archaiology;* he translated the psalms of David into Welsh metre, and had a great concern in regulating the Welsh prosody: here is also in the church a cross-legged figure of Sir Robert Pounderling, who, it would seem, had obtained the merit of pilgrimage to the holy sepulchre. The church is built on the declivity of the Clwydian hills, and its situation is esteemed one of the most beautiful spots on earth, for the extent, variety, and grandeur of the prospects it affords. In a building adjoining the churchyard may be seen the carved capital of an old cross, noted in the days of popery for its miracles, and celebrated in a Welsh poem by a bard of the name of Gruffydd ap Ievan ap Llewelyn Vychan, who flourished about 1500.

Treuddyn, Treddin, or Treithin, hath its church dedicated to Saint Mary.—Near this place is a large stone pillar, one of the most distinguished by the name of Maen-hîr, and supposed to mark the grave of some celebrated warrior, who fell in battle, it is called Carreg y Llech; it is about five feet high, seven broad, and eighteen inches thick, placed erect on a tumulus coarsely paved.

The following eminent bards and learned and celebrated men were natives or inhabitants of this county:—Robert Ddu, a bard; Edwin, Prince of Tegeingl; Ednowain Bendew, Lord of Tegeingl, 1079; Iolo Goch, bard, 1410; Davydd ap Edmund, bard, 1450; Madog ap Gruffydd Maelor, founder of Valle Crucis abbey; Henry Perry, who enlarged and published William Salisbury's Rhetoric; Sir John Glynn, Chief Justice; Sir John Trevor and Sir Thomas Hanmer, Speakers of the House of Commons; Lloyd Lord Kenyon, Lord Chief Justice of the King's Bench; Thomas Pennant, of Downing, Esq. historian and naturalist; John Humffreys Parry, Esq. editor of the Cambro-Briton and the Cambrian Plutarch.

MERIONETHSHIRE,

MERIONETHSHIRE,

IN Welsh Meirion, or Meirionydd, or Sîr Veirionydh, and by Giraldus Terra Filiorum Conani. The face of this county is varied throughout with a most romantic mixture of all the peculiar scenery belonging to a wild and mountainous region, but less dreary than Caernarvonshire, being much bolder and clothed with wood, yet not less fertile in objects which impress the mind with astonishment. The air of Merionethshire is very sharp in winter, on account of its high and barren mountains. Some of the lakes abound with excellent char, and singular crooked-back trouts. Beneath the lofty Berwyn Hills, spreads a fine vale, with the infant Dee, although it only receives the name on leaving Bala lake, yet some trace its head higher, even to the lofty Aran, which Spenser makes the residence of Timon, the foster-father to prince Arthur—

> "His dwelling is full low in valley green,
> Under the foot of Aran's mossy hoar,
> From whence the river Dee, as silver clean,
> His tumbling billows roll with gentle roar."

South of this spot begins an alpine region of narrow and deep vallies, between high, verdant, and precipitous hills, with moors affording peat, almost the only fuel of the country, while the Dyfi, a considerable river, rolls in the bottom; and at last forms the southern boundary of Merionethshire.

CORWEN

hath its church dedicated to Saint Julian, who lived about the beginning of the sixth century. It is a small town, built on a rock at the foot of the Berwyn hills, and approached by crossing a handsome bridge over the Dee. This place is become a great resort for anglers, who merely frequent it for amusement, being well stocked with trout, grayling, and many species of fish, particularly salmon, which is much esteemed by the epicure. Corwen is also remarkable for being the rendezvous of the Welsh forces under Owen Gwynedd, and where he stopped the invasion of Henry the Second in 1161. The place of encampment may be easily distinguished by a mount of earth. The church is built in the form of a cross, south of the village of Cynwyd. On the south side of the church is cut a very rude cross, which is shown to strangers as a representation of the sword of Owen Glyndwr. Near the parish church stands a pointed rude stone, called Carreg-y-big yn-y-fach-newlyd, which is said to have directed the founder where to erect the church; and in the churchyard is another, the shaft of which is inserted in a flat stone, and that supported by four

or

or five rude stones, as if the whole had been formed in imitation and veneration of the sacred cromlechs of ancient times. In the church is the tomb of one of its first vicars. There are also two hospitals in the parish, one of them being for six widows of clergymen, who died possessed of cure of souls in the county of Merioneth, and is endowed by lands amounting to £60 per annum; the other for eight old women of the parish. It is almost unncessary to observe, that the lands about Corwen are in a high degree fertile, and finely variegated with four deep and narrow vales on each side verging towards it as the central part of a star, while the naked and intervening hills gradually expand themselves before our eyes till terminated by the horizon.

The little village of Cynwyd was formerly noted for the courts kept there by the great men of the neighbourhood, to settle the boundaries of their several claims on the wastes and commons, and to take cognizance of the encroachments; but they have been long discontinued, and the records destroyed.

About one mile north of Corwen is Caer Drewyn, an ancient British post, on a steep hill, which commands a fine view of the vales of Glyn Dyvrdwy* and Edeirnion. The post is circular, about half a mile in circumference, and defended by a single wall mostly in ruins; yet in some places the facing remains, and in the thickness of the walls are evident marks of stately apartments. It had apparently two entrances near the north-east, with an oblong square added to the main structure, where the ground is flat, besides being strengthened with a great ditch and wall. Within this are the foundations of rude stone buildings, one of which is circular, and several yards in diameter: the ditch is carried much farther than the wall, and seems an unfinished addition. It is conjectured that Owen Gwynedd occupied this post when Henry the Second lay encamped on the Berwyn Hills, and it was afterwards used by Owen Glyndwr.

Pont-y-Glyn, or the bridge of the precipice, is six miles from Corwen, on the road to Llanrwst. This bridge stands at the head of a woody glen with prominent rocks, almost obscured by the surrounding foliage. It consists of a single arch, thrown over the rugged bed of a precipitous river, where, among immense masses of rock, the stream foams most furiously. The cataract is not very high, but situate immediately under the bridge, where its white foam, dashing among dark opposing rocks, with pendant foliage on each side, forms a scene highly picturesque and elegant; the bridge stands upon two nearly perpendicular rocks of about sixty feet high from the bed below,

* This vale is much celebrated as the residence of Owen Glyndwr, whose memory is still highly revered in its neighbourhood, as being the scene of his great exploits and hospitality. He is in history styled Glyndwr, from Glyndyvrdwy or Glyndwrdwy, his small patrimony or possessions in the vale of Glyndwrdwy, now commonly called Llangollen. Some remains of one of his mansions are still visible at a place called Sychnant, about three miles from Corwen.

below, and, if viewed from the centre of the arch, appears grand and tremendous. To the south of Corwen are the Berwyn mountains, a long chain of hills commonly so called: this ridge occupies the eastern side of Merionethshire, and branches into Denbighshire and Montgomeryshire. Its northern boundary is the Dee, its southern the Tanad, being in length from north to south sixteen miles, in breadth from five to ten. Cader Berwyn and Cader Fronwen are the most elevated points. This district is but thinly inhabited, but the air is very salubrious and congenial to longevity, which accords well with the aphorisms of Churchyard in 1587:

> "The mountayne men live longer many a yeare
> Than those in vale, in playne, or marrish soyle;
> A lustie hart, a clean complexion clere
> They have, on hill that for hard living toyle.
> With ewe and lamb, with goats and kids they play,
> In greatest toyles, to rub out wearie day;
> And when to house and home good fellowes draw
> The lads can laugh at turning of a strawe."

The mountains are chiefly composed of primitive schistus, or such as does not contain iron pyrites, or any impression of organized bodies, the position of the strata being generally perpendicular to the plane of the horizon: the only metal found in these mountains are lead and calamine, whose matrix is coarse quartz schistus. There are no lakes in the whole extent of these mountains, nor stream of any consequence, except the Ceiriog, which flows by Chirk. The soil is peat, with some bogs of a grey clay, formed probably from the decomposition of the rock, but the drier parts are covered with heath. The bogs or turbaries supply the inhabitants with fuel, which would otherwise be extremely scarce here and in its vicinity. Of quadrupeds the fox is the chief, and commits frequent depredations, while an extensive, and almost unoccupied, territory affords him a secure retreat. Many rare mountainous plants are also found here, whose fruits are grateful food for grouse.

Towards the western extremity of these mountains is Llandervel, having its church dedicated to Saint Dervel, surnamed the Strong, or Dervel Gadarn, who lived about the close of the sixth century. This village was formerly remarkable for the wooden image of Saint Dervel Gadarn, concerning which the Welsh had a prophecy, that it would set a whole forest on fire: to complete which it is said to have been taken to London in the year 1538, and used as part of the fuel which consumed Forest, the friar, in Smithfield, for denying the Pope's supremacy.

Returning from this digression we proceed in a south-westerly direction, and at the distance of about nine miles, pass through Llanfor or Llanfawr y Mhenllyn, which hath its church dedicated to Saint Deiniol, who lived in the early part of the sixth century. This place was formerly of considerable importance, and is remarkable as the supposed

supposed place of interment of Llywarch Hên, a Cumbrian prince, and a most celebrated bard and warrior, in the seventh century, who, after a long life of misfortune, died at the advanced age of 150. Dr. Davies mentions an inscription, in his time to be seen on the wall, under which he was interred. Near this place is a circle of stones, called Pabell Llywarch Hên, or "Llywarch the Aged's tent," where tradition says he had a house, wherein he spent the latter part of his life: his valour in opposing the encroachments of the Saxons and Irish is well known in British history, wherein we are informed he lost his patrimonial possessions and twenty-four of his valiant sons, who fell nobly in the field of battle. After this irreparable misfortune and distress, some historians say he retired to a hut near Machynlleth, to sooth with his harp the sorrows of old age, which were numerous and distressing, as he pathetically describes in his elegies on that subject. His works, Heroic Elegies, &c. were published by that great patron of Welsh literature, Mr. Owen Jones, of Thames-street, London, a native of Llanfihangel Glynn Myfyr, who also published the Welsh Archaiology. Rhiwlas, the ancient seat of the family of Price, is pleasantly situate on an eminence at some distance from the church, upon the banks of the river Trowerin. Rhiwedog, in this parish, is one of the most ancient family seats in North Wales, and is generally supposed to have been the residence of Rhirid, surnamed "The Wolf" (Rhirid Flaidd). He derived this cognomen from his maternal ancestor, Blaidd Rhudd, or "The ruddy Wolf," of Gest, near Penmorva, in Caernarvonshire. Rhirid lived about the year 1200. Cynddelw Brydydd Mawr, a celebrated bard of that age, addressed some beautiful verses to him, on receiving from his hands a present of an elegant sword. Cynddelw was bard to Madog ap Meredydd, Prince of Powys. A portion of the verses have been thus translated:—

A noble wolf doth me befriend,
To me his ready aid he'll lend:
Not the wild wolf that prowls for prey,
And drives the harmless flocks away;
No! but a wolf in human form
Whom every virtue doth adorn;
Ririd the brave, great Penllyn's lord,
Disdains all useful pelf to hoard;
He said, as late I quaffed his wine,
This silver mounted sword be thine;
His shining sword shall grace my side,
His noble gift shall be my pride.

About the year 1450, Rhiwedog was the property of Eineon ap Ithel, Esquire to John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, as we are informed in the history of the Gwydir family; and as the Nannau, Glynn-Llivon, and many other familes, were allied to the House of Rhiwedog by marriage and otherwise, this will account for many of the Welsh espousing the Lancastrian cause. The heads of this family for many generations continued to be liberal supporters of the Welsh bards.

Llanvair

Llanvair (*i. e.* Saint Mary's Church) juxta Harlech.—The church is very plain and simple, as most of the country churches in Wales are, and there are very few houses in the village. Here Archbishop Baldwin and Giraldus Cambrensis slept one night on their journey from Towyn to Nevin, when preaching the Crusades in 1188.

At the distance of one mile from Llanvair we pass through

BALA,

a market town in Llan-y-Cil parish, consisting chiefly of one wide street, situate at the bottom of a large pool, called Llyn-Tegid, or "The Fair Lake." This place carries on a considerable trade in woollen yarn and stockings, and is the residence of many genteel families; it is also the places where the County Assizes are held alternately with Dolgellau. The Montgomeryshire Parliamentary forces invaded this county August 21, 1645, and lay a week at Bala, until they were driven out by Sir John Owen and the North Wales men. Close to the town, to the south-east, is an artificial mount, probably Roman, called Tommen-y-Bala, the Bala Barrow or Tumulus, one of the chain of forts in this county; among which is Tommen-y-Castell, on a mountain in the road to Ruthin, and another on the opposite side of Bala Lake, perhaps Bala Castle, founded by Llewelyn ap Iorwerth in 1202, now cut through by the road, as well as Caer-Crwyni, a small camp near the Vale of Edeirnion. A little to the south-west of the town is Bala Lake, or Pimble Mere, by far the largest lake in all Wales. This fine expanse of water is nearly 4 miles long, 400 yards broad, and 46 yards deep, with three yards of mud. The water rises sometimes nine feet, and overflows the Vale of Edeirnion, consequently it has greatly extended its boundaries to the north-east shore. It is well-stocked with fish, particularly perch, pike, roach, trout, eels, and shoals of that alpine fish called gwyniad, so named from the whiteness of its scales, and called by some the fresh water whiting, which spawn in December, and are taken in great numbers in spring; they are common to most of the alpine parts of Europe. It is a gregarious fish of an insipid taste, and dies soon after it is taken, therefore it is dressed directly; the largest weigh about four pounds, and they are taken in nets, by reason of their keeping close to the bottom of the lake. The water, like that of most other rocky lakes, is so pure that the most delicate chemical tests detect scarcely any perceptible quantity of foreign mixture; sometimes, in severe winters, it has happened that the lake has been completely frozen over, and when covered with snow has been mistaken by strangers for a vale or plain. The shores of the pool are extremely diversified, and from every point of view present an agreeable and striking prospect of corn fields and cultivated meadows, bounded with rich verdure, accompanied by water, which discharges itself from the lake, forming the river Dee, which takes its course by

a rocky hill of considerable elevation and covered with an old wood, until it terminates in the lofty summit of Aran-ben-Llyn, almost shrouded in clouds; while rising high in the distant horizon is seen the terrible head of the majestic Cader Idris. From the north-eastern corner of the lake (as before noticed) issues the river Dee, the etymology of which has been often a subject of great controversy, some deriving it from Ddhû "divine," others from Dhu, meaning "black" or "dark," and a third affirms that the appellation arose from the two sources of the river, the word *du* meaning "two;" but where all have an equal claim it is difficult to decide. The lake and fishery formerly belonged to Basingwerk Abbey, but it is at present the sole property of Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, Bart.

Proceeding along the western shore of the lake, and at the distance of about seventeen miles, we pass through

DOLGELLAU,

a respectable market town, and the place where the assizes for the summer are held: it is seated in a wide and fertile vale, between the rivers Aran and Mawddach, and surrounded on all sides with high mountains, some of which are well wooded: the streets are irregular, and the houses in general ill built: among the buildings the town hall is the most respectable. The church, dedicated to Saint Mary, has a respectable external appearance; within is an antique monument of an armed knight, with a dog at his feet, and a lion on his shield, on it is inscribed,—"Hic jacet Meuric filius Ynyr Vychan;" it is to the memory of an ancestor of the Nannau family. This town appears to have been known to the Romans, although there are at present no remains to justify the assertion, except some Roman coins found at a well in its vicinity, called Ffynnon-Vawr, bearing this inscription—"IMP. CAESAR TRAIAN." which is evidently Roman, and gives in some degree a sanction to the hypothesis. From hence the celebrated Owen Glyndwr, in 1404, sent his chancellor (Griffith Yonge) and his relation (John Hanmer), to the court of France with letters of credence, to seek to strengthen his cause; and he succeeded in some degree, as a body of troops landed at Milford, marched up the country, and took Caermarthen. The appointment of the ambassadors is dated Dolgellau, and couched in princely style. Part of the house in which he and his ministers met is still standing, and known by the name of Plâs yn Dref.—At a place called Pen Ystrad, *i. e.* the head of the street, on the road leading from Dolgellau to Trawsfynnydd, I saw, says Sir Richard Hoare, undoubted and perfect remains of the causeway pointing to the station of Heriri Mons, at Tommen y Mûr.

About one mile to the east of Dolgellau, on the right of our road, is Llanilltyd, having its church dedicated to Saint Illtyd.—It is a flourishing village, containing several good houses, beautifully situated on the river Mawddach, which serves as a port to Dolgellau, and

where

where many vessels are built; but large vessels are unable to get out of the shallow passage from Cardigan to Barmouth harbour, except they take advantage of the equinoctial tides. The banks on each side run alternately in steep promontories, and are wooded to the water's edge so as to completely hide the termination of the river, and cause it to resemble a broad and beautiful lake, while on the south side, behind the banks, rise abruptly vast and craggy cliffs, which surround and almost conceal the summit of the celebrated Cader Idris. About one mile on the north is Cymmer abbey, called in Welsh Y-Vana, or Vanner, it is situated in a verdant bottom, near the banks of the Mawddach. The ruins of this ancient abbey are specimens of its former grandeur, but by whom erected is uncertain: it was of the Cistertian order, and founded, probably, in the year 1198, by Meredith ap Gruffydd, a descendant of Owen Gwynedd: though, according to Mr. Vaughan, of Hengwrt, it was dedicated to Saint Mary, and was founded by some monks, who sojourned here from Abbey Cwmhîr, Radnorshire, to which it appears to have been a colony. In the *Notitia Monastica* of Bishop Tanner it is mentioned as founded by Llewylyn, the son of Gervase or Iorwerth, about 1200; at any rate he seems to have been a benefactor, and, as Prince of North Wales, to have confirmed the donations of others in 1209, as well as his own: but there does not appear any reason whatever to think him founder, nor is the time of the foundation clear. It seems to have been in a flourishing condition in 1231; for Henry the Third, in marching against Llewelyn ap Iorwerth, would have burnt it, had not the abbot ransomed it by paying three hundred marks, and some other recompence for the injury done to the king by his late treachery. In the year 1291, according to an ancient record in the Augmentation Office, the abbey had in yearly revenues arising from granges, pastures, and other temporal possessions £11. 14s. 11d. and previous to its dissolution, in pursuance of the statute 27th Hen. VIII. the commissioners reported it to be worth, in spiritualities and temporalities, £51. 13s. 4d. Of the old fabric there are considerable remains, but in length very disproportionate for the width, being between thirty and forty yards long, and not above eight broad: the east end is the most perfect, covered with ivy, through which are seen three small lancet windows: against the south wall are a few small gothic pillars and arches, with an aperture in the wall, where was probably kept the holy water: in this part of the building was a semicircular door, opposite to two small arches, and near them a mutilated stone representing the head of a human figure. These remains are part of the church, with the refectory, and abbot's lodgings, adjoining the farm-house. The other parts are much shattered, and in many places badly patched with modern work to render it useful to the farmer on whose ground it stands; the site and ruins remained in the Crown for many years, and were not granted away

away till Queen Elizabeth bestowed it on Robert Earl of Leicester, about the twentieth year of her reign.—Near this abbey stood Cymmer castle, built by Uchtryd ap Edwyn, but the spot at present is not precisely known; it was demolished in 1116 by Eineon ap Gruffydd, and the property divided.

About two miles from Cymmer Abbey is Dol-y-Melynllyn, where the river Gamlan falls from various rocks till it reaches a lofty precipice among trees, called Rhaiadr-ddu, or the Black Cataract. It is a double fall, about 60 feet high, where the water foams with a thundering noise down some black rocks, giving to the scene a singular appearance, which is increased by being covered in many places with a pure white lichen; the torrent falls into a small deep basin, from whence it dashes itself along its rugged channel. About one mile from this is another cataract, called Rhaiadr-y-Mawddach, situate in the river of that name, where the water forces itself down a rock of 60 feet high, in which the stream is three times broken in its fall to the basin: the rocks and trees form an amphitheatre round it, but the upper part of the rock is too much hidden by intervening obstructions. Near the latter is Pistill-y-lain, which is by far the highest and most magnificent of the three; it consists of a narrow stream rushing down a vast rock at least 150 feet high, whose horizontal strata run in irregular steps through its whole breadth, forming a mural front, but the regularity in a great measure spoils its picturesque beauty: the immense fragments of broken rocks, scattered around in every direction at the foot of the fall, communicate a pleasing effect, which is farther heightened by the agreeable tints of oak and beech foliage, and as a whole possesses much local beauty and romantic scenery.

A few miles from this place is Nannau, an ancient seat of the Nannau family, now of the family of Vaughan: it was formerly the residence of Hywel Sele, an inveterate enemy of Owen Glyndwr. The estate is covered with fine timber, which clothes all the sides of the dingles for many miles: the park is remarkable for its small but very excellent venison. In this parish is a spring, called Ffynnon y Capel, which makes it probable that there was formerly a chapel near it. The learned Philip Yorke, Esq. in his "*Royal Tribes of Wales*," says of the family of Nannau: "From Cadwgan, the second son of the founder of the tribe [Bleddyn ap Cynfyn], descend the Nanneys of Nannau; the elder daughter and heiress of the last of the male line, Hugh Nanney, married William Vaughan, Esq. of Corsygedol, but no issue remaining from this match, the estate hath devolved to Sir Robert Williames Vaughan, the grandson of the twin-sister of his great-aunt, Mrs. Vaughan. Sir Robert has improved the place (in itself distinguished) by a good family mansion, which is said to have one of the highest situations of a gentleman's house in Great Britain."

Returning

Returning on our road from Dolgellau, we proceed in a south-easterly direction, and on our right pass Cader-Idris, or Cadair-Idris, a lofty mountain, so called from a tradition of its having been a fortress belonging to Idris, who is supposed to have been a prince in these parts in ancient times. It is also said that Idris was a giant, a great poet, astronomer, and philosopher, and that the summit of Cader Idris was his favourite seat and observatory: he was a personage ranked, according to Mr. Owen, with Gwdion ap Don and Gwyn ap Nudd, under the appellation of the three sublime astronomers of Great Britain, whose profound knowledge of the stars, their nature, and aspects, enabled them to explain events. The time when he flourished cannot be determined, it being before the era of history. This mountain extends above 2900 feet high, and is above a mile in length, and very rocky towards the summit, which is covered with huge fragments of discoloured rocks, very rugged, and cemented by a semi-vitrified matter of volcanic appearance. On this mountain are several pools, particularly Llyn-Curry and Llyn-y-Cae, with a lake on the top, and near it the supposed chair of Arthur, a natural cavity in the rock; along one side, where the hill recedes, is a stupendous precipice, forming a kind of theatre; and on the opposite side is Craig-Cay, a great rock, with a lake below lodged in a deep hollow. Descending from the Cader to Cyfrarvy, the whole space for a considerable way is covered with loose stones like a stream of lava, many of them columnar, but not jointed, lying very disorderly in all directions, and are of a great thickness. Pen-y-Gader is about 950 yards above the green near Dolgellau; and the other mountain, called Aran Benllyn, is 740 yards above Llyn-Tegid. Beneath Tyrrau-Mawr, one of the points of Cader-Idris, and on the right, are some remains of circles of upright stones, with many carns, and several Maeni-hirion, or rude upright columns. At a small distance beyond these, near the river Krogennan, are the remains of Llys-Bradwen, or the palace of Ednowain, chief of one of the fifteen tribes of North Wales about the reign of Gruffydd ap Cynan, measuring nearly thirty yards square, and having an entrance seven feet wide, with a large upright stone on each side as a door case: the walls are rude and uncemented. The peak of Cader Idris is the beginning of a chain of primitive mountains, extending in a north-east direction towards the Arans and Arenigs: it is likewise much loftier and more craggy than the slate and secondary mountains which surround it, and consists of siliceous porphyry, quartz, and felspar, enclosed in a green paste, with siliceous schistose porphyry, intersected with veins of quartz and argillaceous porphyry in a mass, and a dark grey paste. Several rocks contain the component parts of granite and porphyry, with a great portion of white greasy-looking quartz. The views from this mountain are very extensive and beautiful, particularly Bala Pool and its adjoining mountains; while towards

towards the south is seen the county of Montgomery, and Plinlimmon; on the west Cardigan bay, and from St. David's quite round to Caernarvonshire.

At the distance of nine miles beyond Dolgellau we arrive at Dinas Mawddwy, the principal town in the lordship of that name: its church is dedicated to Saint Tydecho. Notwithstanding its dignified name Dinas, "City," the place consists of only one street, with nothing to recommend it to notice except the church, which is a handsome building, but the houses scarcely rank above the common cottages of the country.—After the wars of the houses of York and Lancaster, multitudes of felons and outlaws inhabited this part of the country, and established themselves in the lordship. For a length of time after those unhappy days, this race of profligates continued to rob, burn, and murder, in defiance of the civil power, and to steal and drive whole herds of cattle in mid-day, from one county to another, with the utmost impunity. To put a stop to these ravages a commission was granted to John Wynn ap Meredydd, of Gwŷdir, and to Lewis Owen, Esq. one of the Welsh Exchequer Barons and Vice-Chamberlain of North Wales (who lived at Llwyn), for the purposes of punishing all offenders against the government, and settling the peace of the country. In pursuance of their orders they raised a body of stout men, and, on Christmas-eve, seized about eighty outlaws and felons, on whom they held a gaol delivery, and punished them according to their deserts: among them were two young men, whose mother earnestly applied to Lewis Owen for the pardon of one of them. This request, however, he refused, when the mother, baring her neck with desperate fury, exclaimed—"These yellow breasts have given suck to those who shall wash their hands in your blood." Revenge was determined upon by these surviving villains; they watched their opportunity, when Baron Owen was passing from Montgomeryshire Great Sessions, to way-lay him in the thick woods of Dugoed Mawddwy, at a place now called, from the deed, Llidiart y Barwn (the gate of the baron), where they had cut down several large trees to cross the road and impede the passage; they discharged against him a shower of arrows, one of which penetrated his cheek: they then attacked him with bills and javelins, and left him slain, with about thirty wounds on his body. His son-in-law John Lloyd, Esq. defended him to the last, but his cowardly attendants fled on the first onset: this atrocious crime was committed in 1555; and, in consequence of it, vigorous measures were adopted for the public safety, and the whole of the banditti were extirpated; many were taken, tried and executed, and the rest fled from the country. The traditions of the country respecting this body of ruffians are extremely strong; and it is said they were so much feared, that travellers did not dare to go along the common road, but passed over the summits of

of the mountains to avoid their haunts; and that the inhabitants placed scythes in the chimneys to prevent these marauders from coming down to surprise them in the night. Some of these scythes were to be seen in the chimneys at a recent period. This gang was distinguished by the titles of Gwylliaid y Dugoed (*i. e.* the night-prowlers of Dugoed), and the Gwylliaid Cochion Mawddwy (the red headed Banditti of Mawddwy): on the road from Dinas to Dolgellau are situated some deserted lead mines, where there is some blueish ochre, which the shepherds wet and pound in a mortar, then form into balls and use it in marking their sheep. An old proverb of the three things which Mawddwy wishes to send out of the country, shows their long knowledge of it:—

> In Mawddwy black, three things remain,
> False men, blue earth, and ceaseless rain:
> Of these they'd gladly riddance gain.

The lordship of Mawddwy was first granted to William fourth son of Gruffydd ap Gwenwynwyn, Prince of Powys; his grand-daughter and sole heiress married Sir Hugh de Burghe, son of the well known Hugh Burghe, Justiciary of England. His son Sir John left four daughters, who married into the houses of Newport, Leighton, Lingen, and Mytton. Eleanor the fourth daughter, bestowed her hand and this seigniory on Thomas Mytton, Esq. of Halston, in the county of Salop, in which family it still (1830) remains.

Ffestiniog hath its church dedicated to Saint Michael; it is a small village situate at the head of Cwm Maentwrog, and was much noticed and brought before public observation by Lord Lyttelton in 1756; indeed every person will admit that few vales afford such lovely prospects as this, being bounded by high mountains, shaded with lofty oaks, and richly cultivated, with the placid river Dwyrhyd in the centre, and the sea at a distance, which terminates the view. Contiguous to the public-house in this village are two remarkable water-falls, called Cynvel: one about three hundred yards above the house, and the other below a rustic bridge thrown over the river, to which the path leads. The upper fall consists of three steep rocks, over which the water foams into a deep black basin, overshadowed by the adjoining rocks; the other is formed by a broad sheet of water, precipitated down a rock forty feet high, and darkened by a numerous foliage around it, almost to the edge of the stream. Between the cataract and the bridge is a tall columnar rock, called "the pulpit of Hugh Llwyd," situate in the bed of the river: this man was a bard and a reputed magician, who lived in the time of Charles the First, and the tradition is that he used to retire to this rock when he was seized with the awen, and also to deliver his nocturnal incantations. He entered into the army and was abroad many years, and returned home in his old age, but no one knew him: he found his sister-in-law, her husband and children, sitting one fine summer's evening on a stone

stone seat which he himself had placed there. He addressed them in English, and asked would they lodge him that night; and though they did not understand the language, they conjectured what he wanted, and desired him to come in and partake of their fare, milk and flummery: he complied with their request, and when they had finished their meal he addressed them in some extempore lines, of which the following is a translation:—

> For wines delicious is mighty France renown'd,
> And various dainties are in London found:
> With butter Holland half the world supplies,
> But Cambria's flummery more than all I prize.

About two miles from hence is a fine spring, which has often been found efficacious in rheumatic and ricketty complaints: it is situate between the rivers Dwyrhyd and Cynfael, and gives name to a vale which is much celebrated for its picturesque beauty. Not far from thence is a very fine Roman camp, most judiciously placed in a situation over an extensive view of the country, partly level, partly inclining from it, and commanding a number of passes to the lesser posts of this mountainous tract; it is called Tommen y Mûr, *i. e.* "the mountain within the wall," and coins and urns and other antiquities are frequently discovered in it: Sarn Helen, or the way of Helen, who was the wife of the Emperor Maximus, runs into it at one end, and is continued to Rhŷd yr Helen within this parish.

About four miles to the west of Ffestiniog is Pont-Aberglâslyn, a bridge which unites the counties of Merioneth and Caernarvon. It consists of one wide stone arch, across the united torrents of the Colwyn and Glâs-Llyn, and connects two perpendicular precipices with its semicircular arch, which is in diameter 30 feet, the crown about 40 feet above the water, with an impending cliff at least 80 feet high projecting from every part, forming a broken front of a most capricious form, and which shadows a roaring cataract among huge ruins that have fallen from the mountains; just above it the whole river falls down a craggy break of about 12 feet high, forming what is called the Salmon Leap: the scenery around is very grand, and soon attracts our admiration, with the road winding along a narrow stony vale, between dark perpendicular cliffs on each hand, so as only to leave room to pass at the bottom, which leads to an impetuous stream rolling close by its side. The salmon leap measures from the bed of the river about thirteen feet; but after much rain only eight or nine. This cataract is but a few miles from the sea, and has long been remarkable for the great number of salmon which come up the river in the beginning of October, in order to deposit their spawn on the sandy shallows contiguous. It is not uncommon to see, in the course of an hour, twenty or thirty attempting to pass the cataract, but they seldom succeed on account of a net which the renter of the fishery places here to prevent them. In the reign of Henry the Fourth this was

was a royal weir, and is supposed to have belonged to some of the Welsh princes before that period. Round the base of a neighbouring mountain is a copper mine belonging to Sir W. W. Wynn, from which issues a stream of water, strongly impregnated with the sulphate of copper and iron, which must injure the fishery considerably, particularly in dry seasons.

Returning on our road at the distance of about eleven miles, after passing through the villages of Maentwrog and Llan-Tecwyn, we arrive at Harlech, in the parish of Llan-Danwg. It derives its name Ar-lech from its situation on the rock; or, according to others, from Hardd-lech, "the beautiful rock." Its castle is inaccessible on the side next the sea; and, prior to the invention of gunpowder, it must have been impregnable. On the land side the castle is protected by a deep foss. This fortress was anciently called Twr-Bronwen, from the daughter of Llyr, of Harlech, wife of Matholwch, and sister of Brân ap Llyr, King of Britain. In after times it obtained the name of Caer Collwyn, "Collwyn's castle," from Collwyn ap Tangno, head of one of the fifteen tribes of North Wales, and Lord of Eivionedd, Ardudwy, and part of Lleyn. His grandchildren flourished in the reign of Gruffydd ap Cynan. He resided sometimes in a square tower in the ancient fortress, the remains of which are very apparent. The castle consists of a square building, each side measuring about seventy yards, having at each corner a round tower, from each of which issued formerly a circular turret, most of them now destroyed. The entrance is between two great towers, like Caernarvon, but the chief apartments appear to have been over the gateway, in a building which projected into a court, and at each corner of the building a round tower: these fortifications, fosses, and situation on the verge of a perpendicular rock, rendered it almost invulnerable. The Welsh histories generally attribute the foundation of this castle to Maelgwyn Gwynedd, Prince of North Wales, about the year 530, and state that Edward the First founded the present edifice on the ruins of the former, some part of which is now distinguishable from the more modern work. In 1404, Owen Glyndwr seized the castle from Henry the Fourth, but it was again retaken in 1408, and sheltered Margaret of Anjou, as, subsequently to the battle of Northampton in 1460, she fled to Coventry, and from thence retired to this fortress. After a short stay here she went to Scotland, and, collecting her friends in the North of England, marched to Wakefield, where she gained a complete victory over the Duke of York and the Earl of Salisbury. In 1468, after a short siege, it was taken by the Earl of Pembroke, of whom Sir John Wynne, in his "*History of the Gwydir Family*," quotes some British lines, expressive of the ravages and oppressions committed by him in the counties of Merioneth and Denbigh. Among the many tempestuous scenes Harlech castle has experienced, the last occurred in 1647, when

when William Owen, who was governor, with a garrison of only twenty-eight men, surrendered it to Oliver Cromwell's forces under General Mytton, but not until every castle in Wales had deserted the royal cause. It is also said to have been the last in England which held out for the House of Lancaster. Of the castle nothing of importance occurred since; and the town, which Edward the First formed into a borough, gradually degenerated in importance. In 1692 an ancient golden torques was dug up in a garden near the castle, which is described as a wreathed bar, or three or four rods twisted together, and about four feet long, but bent in the form of a hatband with hooks at each end, neither sharp nor twisted, but plain and cut even, of a circular form, about an inch in circumference, and weighing eight ounces. This valuable relic of antiquity was in the possession of the Mostyn family. Several Roman coins have been likewise found in and near the town, which proves its origin to have been of great antiquity. There is a celebrated Welsh tune called "Gorhoffedd Gwŷr Harlech," or the March of the Men of Harlech, published in the first volume of Mr. Edward Jones's "*Musical and Poetical Reliques of the Welsh Bards.*" This neighbourhood, in 1694, was annoyed by a very singular phenomenon, in appearance like a prodigious fire or kindled exhalation proceeding from the sea, which set fire to sixteen stacks of hay and two barns. In this destructive manner it lasted about twelve days, ravaging the country about Harlech, and poisoning the grass with its stench. The flame, which was peculiarly destructive in the night, had a weak blue appearance, easily extinguished without injuring the people, who frequently ventured to it, and often in it, to save their effects: yet it was of that infectious nature, that it absolutely killed the cattle which fed on the grass; and was not only during the time it lasted conspicuous to the eyes, but for three years afterwards it caused a great mortality among cattle, horses, and sheep. In the year 1694 the Rev. Mr. Jones, of Llandanwg, transmitted to the London Philosophical Society an account of this singular phenomenon, accompanied by a catalogue of its ravages. It was distinguished by the different names of *Ignis Fatuus, Ignis Lambens, Scintilla Volans, &c.* It continued for some months, but appeared only occasionally, once or twice a week: it seemed to begin at Morva Bychan, on the Caernarvonshire side, and then to cross over to Morva Harlech, or Harlech Marsh. Mr. Humphrey Llwyd attributes this strange phenomenon to locusts that arrived here about two months before, which, being drowned in the sea, or dying of extreme cold on land, are supposed to have occasioned this infection. This hypothesis is founded on the number of locusts found dead near the sea shore. It appeared chiefly in stormy nights, and sometimes in calm evenings; but any great noise, such as sounding of horns, firing of guns, &c. repelled it, and often extinguished the same; which means, it is said, saved much hay and corn from its baneful effects.

About

About two miles from Harlech is a remarkable monument, called Koeten Arthur: it is a large stone table, somewhat of an oval form, but rude and ill-shaped, as are the rest of these monuments, about 10 feet long, and 7 feet where it is broadest, 2 feet thick at one end, but not above an inch at the other; it is placed on rude stone pillars, each half a yard broad, whereof two that support the thick end are between seven and eight feet high, but a third (at the other end) is about three feet only.

About 8 miles from Harlech we pass on our left Corsygedol, an ancient seat of the family of Vaughan: near this seat, on Craig-y-Dinas, is a hill surrounded with a vast heap of stones contiguous to the ruins of a wall, which in many places retain a regular and even facing, with an oblique entrance, faced with stones at the sides. One mile further is Llyn-Bodlin, a small lake; and in the same neighbourhood Llyn-cwm-Howel; noted for a race of trout with flat heads like toads, first noticed by Giraldus Cambrensis. On a plain beyond Llyn-Irddin are two circles of stones, forming a hill, with upright columns five yards from each other, and contiguous are smaller ones of a similar form. Half a mile from these, on the side of a hill, are two oblong carneddau, composed of loose stones, with large stones in the centre, fifty feet long and twelve high. At the east end is a great cromlech, composed of two sloping stones, one placed over the edge of the other, on five flat stones placed upright, the highest measuring 7 feet 10 inches and the lowest not less than 4 feet 10. Adjoining to these are many more, particularly Maen-Hirion, and other cromlechs.

At the distance of 4 miles from Corsygedol, and 12 from Harlech, we arrive at

BARMOUTH,

in the parish of Llan-Aber, a small town at the bottom of a steep hill near the sea, and at the mouth of the river Mawddach, where the tide at high water forms a bay of about one mile over, but the entrance is hazardous on account of the sand banks. From its situation near the bottom of some high mountains, the houses are placed on the steep side, one above another, in such a manner as to give the upper an opportunity of seeing down the chimnies of their adjacent neighbours, and is considered very much to resemble Gibraltar. The town derives its name of Barmouth from the river Maw or Mawddach, *i. e.* Abermaw. Within these few years there were the remains of an ancient tower, in which Henry Earl of Richmond used to conceal himself when he came over to consult his friends about the proposed revolution, and it is celebrated in a poem of those times, comparing in point of strength this place with Reinallt's Tower, near Mold. This town is the port of Merionethshire, where the principal manufactures are flannels and hosiery, which the inhabitants export to a large amount. This town has greatly

greatly improved under the patronage of the Bishop of the Diocese, Sir Robert Williames Vaughan, Bart. and other gentlemen.

The ride from Barmouth to Dolgellau, which is along the banks of the river Maw, is greatly admired, on account of the grandeur of the views and prospects. On the south side of the river is a fine range of mountains, overtopped by the gigantic Cader Idris. There are several vessels belonging to the port of Barmouth, most of them built there, and they are generally considered to be the best of any built in North Wales.

At the distance of about 12 miles to the south of Barmouth is

TOWYN,

or Tywyn, a neat village, situate on a river of that name, and greatly improved by its proprietor, Mr. Corbet, of Ynysymaengwyn. Of public edifices the church is most remarkable, with several handsome monuments. In the churchyard were two rude pillars, one called Saint Cadvan's Stone, shaped like a wedge, and about 7 feet high, with a cross and inscription: a gentleman of eccentric taste (with the Vicar's consent) caused them to be removed, some years ago, to decorate his grotto in the neighbourhood; but upon some remonstrance being made upon the impropriety of such an act, they were restored. Cadvan had, at the north-east end of the churchyard, a free chapel, of which the green site only now remains. Saint Cadvan, who lived, as some say, about the year 250 (and who was considered as the tutelar saint of warriors), is supposed to have been buried inside of this church; and probably the stone or monument abovementioned is the only fragment of his tomb. Gwenddydd, one of the daughters of Brychan Brycheiniog, married to Cadell, Prince of Powys, was buried here about the end of the fifth century. The well of Saint Cadvan is not far distant: it is celebrated for the cure of various diseases, such as rheumatism, scurvy, scrofula, erysipelas, wens, warts, &c. and the number of people that have resorted to it is astonishing. The agricultural improvement in this part is entirely owing to the great spirit and exertions of Mr. Corbet, of Ynysymaengwyn. In the month of August, 1645, the king's forces burnt that mansion, lest the parliamentary forces should find any harbour there. The late proprietor of this beautiful mansion, by his spirited exertions, was the means of making an excellent new road to Aberdovey, in the parish of Pennal, from the town of Machynlleth, along the Dovey side; and he also erected several lodging-houses at that pleasant village. Several good houses have also been built by the present proprietor, and, as an encouragement to families to reside here, building leases are offered by him at a very cheap rate, so that Aberdovey is rapidly rising into eminence, and bids fair, in a few years, to rival the other celebrated bathing-places on the Welsh coast. The beach of Aberdovey is excellent, being hard smooth sand,

sand, and the distance to the machines but short. The ride along the sands from Towyn to Aberdovey, being about four miles, is delightful, particularly at low water.

The following short extracts from *Leland's Itinerary* may be properly introduced here:—"Mr. Rowland Griffith told me that there were two commots between Aberdovey and Towyn, Merioneth, that where, in times past, plentifull of corn and grass, but lying low, almost as level ground, the sea, full many a year since, hath clean devoured them up, and now it is totally a sandy warth (strand)." In another place he says, "Where now the wild sea is at the mouth of Dovey, and farther into the sea, where once two commots of good, plentifull, but low ground, called Cantre'r Gwaelod (the Low Land Hundred), now clean eaten away, 'inundated and destroyed.' There is a poem, still extant, commemorating this fatal event, which is represented to have occurred owing to the carelessness of the persons who had the care of the embankments and flood-gates." Gwyddno Goronhir is said to have been the prince or chieftain of this low land canton: and lines, of which the following are a translation, are still traditionally repeated among the inhabitants:—

Old Gwyddno's sighs and laments vain,
When sunk his land beneath the main.

Ievan Dyfy, a celebrated bard, who flourished about the year 1490, was a native of Aberdovey. It appears that the family of Ynysymaengwyn were distinguished for their patronage of the bards in ancient times. Each of the following bards, viz. Hugh Arwystli, John Philip, Owain Gwynedd, and William Cynval, composed an ode to Hugh ap Evan, of that house, and his five sons, John, Meredith, Richard, Humphrey, and David, of whose hospitality, kindness, and generosity they speak most highly. These bards flourished from 1560 to 1590: the poems are in many hands, but not printed. According to some Welsh lines, written by the bards, Richard and John Philip (two brothers), of Hendre-Fechan, in this county, a Spanish vessel entered Aberdovey river in the year 1597, with an intention, as it is supposed, of landing a few desperadoes, in order to plunder the inhabitants. The bards express a wish that the same fate may attend this ship as befel the Spanish Armada in 1588; and this seems to have been the result, for the marauders were soon after driven out to sea again, without being able to effect a landing.

Craig y Deryn (Craîg Aderyn) is a most picturesque and lofty rock, about 4 miles up the vale of Dysynni. It is so called, "The Birds' Rock," from the numerous birds which nightly retire among its crevices; the noise they make at the close of day is most hideously dissonant; and as the scenery around is wild and romantic, the ideas engendered by such a clamour in the gloom of evening, and in so dismal and desolate a spot, are not the most soothing or agreeable. Towards twilight some large aquatic fowls, from the neighbouring marsh,

marsh, may be seen majestically "winding their way" to this their place of nocturnal rest.

Several parts of this county were governed by different chieftains, who held their tenures *in capite*, either of the princes of Powys or Gwynedd, and afterwards of the kings of England. Thus Gruffydd ap Gwenwynwyn, Prince of Powys, bestowed the lordship of Mawddwy on his son William, better known among the Welsh by the appellation of William Cöch Mawddwy, or William the Red of Mawddwy. Ednywain ap Bradwen, the head of one of the fifteen tribes of North Wales, was Lord of part of Estum-Anner about the time of Gruffydd ap Cynan, Prince of North Wales: Collwyn ap Tangno was Lord of part if not the whole of Ardudwy: Rhirid Vlaidd was Lord of Penllyn about the middle of the thirteenth century: and it appears from Welsh history that Meredydd and Gruffydd, the sons of Cynan ap Owain Gwynedd, were called Lords of Merionedd, and founded Cymmer Abbey; but their right to this distinction seems to have been disputed by the sons of Cadwgan ap Bleddyn, Prince of Powys, as they destroyed Castell Cymmer (otherwise Castell Meibion Uchtryd ap Edwin), which belonged to former princes, about the year 1113. The celebrated Owain Glyndwr was Lord of Glyndyfrdwy and Edeirnion, which he held under Richard the Second, to whom he was greatly attached, and whose unfortunate fate he deeply lamented. With a view, no doubt, to resent that monarch's miserable end, and at the same time to avenge his own wrongs, he took a decided part against the Lancastrian interest, notwithstanding several of the principal men in North Wales, and some of his own relations, were firm supporters of that party; among whom may be mentioned in particular, Eineon ap Ithel, of Rhiwedog, in this county, and Scutifer to John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster; Evan ap Meredydd, of Gessail Gyfarch, in Eivionydd; Meredydd ap Hwlkin Llwyd, Esq. of Glyn Llivon, in Caernarvonshire; and Hywel Sele, of Nannau, in Merionethshire. Hywel's grandson was married to a daughter of Eineon ap Ithel, of Rhiwedog. Hywel Sele was a relation of Owen Glyndwr, who was greatly irritated because he sided with the Lancastrians; and in one of Glyndwr's excursions, when his army was encamped near Dolgellau, he paid his cousin Hywel Sele a visit, the particulars of which we shall here give, in the words of an ancient and respectable writer, Robert Vaughan, of Hengwrt, as they are preserved in an old MS.:— "Yet such as favoured the House of Lancaster, or had served John of Gaunt, and Henry his son, the King of England, much disliked Owen's government, and spoke so partial of him, that it was well perceived that they wanted but an opportunity to be rather his enemies than his friends and subjects. Among whom Howel Sele, of Nanney, in Merionethshire, was one, a very remarkable and powerful gentleman, lineally descended from Cadwgan ap Bleddyn, Prince of Powys,

Powys, and elder brother to Meredydd ap Bleddyn, Owen's ancestor; and therefore may think no less than that himself had as good a right to Powysland as any body else. And Owen suspecting no less, and having certain intelligence that the king intended an expedition into Wales very shortly, thought it policy to secure Howel Sele, lest being at liberty he should join the king against him; and therefore came very betimes one morning, and took Howel Sele when he was scarce out of bed, then he burnt his house and took him along with him till he came to Cymer Abbey, where Owen Glyndwr intended to dine with the abbot of that house; and after dinner, whilst the abbot interceded for Howel Sele's liberty, Owen said 'I hear, cousin, that you are a good bowman,' and calling for a bow and quiver of arrows, wished him to shoot at a mark, or, as some say, at a stag, which was grazing hard by. He turned his hand and shot Owen in the breast; but having armour upon him, under his coat, his life was saved; nevertheless he was sore bruised. Then Howel was bound with ropes, and in the mean time his friends had raised all the country, and were assembled to the hill-tops and elsewhere, to see what had become of him. On the other side of the river which ran by the monastery he had a brother-in-law, called Griffri ap Gwyn, of Ganllwyd, in Ardudwy, who had married a sister to Howel, by the mother (or his daughter, as some say). This man brought with him, of his sons, friends, and kinsmen, above a hundred tall men, to the bridge of Llan-Elltyd, and broke down one or two bays thereof, whereby Owen had no safe passage that way; then he turned back along the river side to a ford called Rhyd-Cadwallon. In the mean time, the people that were on the hills came down and passed the river, and joined themselves with Griffri ap Gwyn and his men, and they guarded the ford stoutly, but at last Owen and his men, being three to one, found other fords and won the passage; then both parties fell to hardy blows, and fought till most part of the country-people were slain; but some escaped to the rocks and mountains, and Owen's men followed them to the top of the mountain, and there killed many, and their graves are to be seen to this day. There was found slain on the place (which whereof is yet called Maesmawr), besides many others, sixty cousin-germans or kindred of Griffri ap Gwyn. After this, Owen took Howel Sele with him, but what became of him is not certainly known." Rhŷs Cain, the bard, told the above-said Mr. Robert Vaughan, of Hengwrt, that the common tradition was that Howel was killed, and his body let down into a hollow oak; and that some said it had been taken out again and buried, but no one knew where. This event is differently related in an interesting account of the celebrated Nannau Oak, in the 6th number of the *Cambro-Briton*, which we here introduce;—

"CEUBREN YR ELLYLL; OR, THE HOBGOBLIN'S HOLLOW TREE.

"In the park at Nannau, in Merionethshire, the seat of Sir Robert Williames

Williames Vaughan, Baronet, there stood within these few last years a hollow, large, and blasted oak, whose blanched and withered leaves presented in spring a striking contrast to the verdure of the surrounding woods. It was a noted tree, and the peasant as he passed in the gloom of the evening would quicken his pace, and, perhaps, murmur a prayer for the preservation of his person from the crafts and assaults of the evil one.

> E'en to this day the peasant still,
> With cautious fear, treads o'er the ground;
> In each wild bush a spectre sees,
> And trembles at each rising sound.

A long succession of ages had rolled on since the event transpired, which conferred on this tree an influence so appalling. During the wars of Glyndwr, in the former part of the fifteenth century, a cousin of that hero resided at Nannau: his name was Howel Sele. It appears that Howel had refused to espouse his kinsman's and his country's cause, thereby rendering himself particularly obnoxious to the choleric Glyndwr; and an enmity was then engendered between the two chieftains, which was fostered on both sides with savage and revengeful malignity. During a cessation of arms, Owen, so intimates tradition, sought amusement and exercise in the pleasure of the chase, and he determined, like Percy of old, to "force the red deer from the forest brake" in the domains of his unbending kinsman: thither he repaired, therefore, with a bosom friend, named Madog, and a small hunting train; as was to be expected, he encountered Howel alone, but armed, who demanded with what right he, a rebel to his king, thus intruded upon his solitude? Reply succeeded reply, till they resolved to try the question by force of arms; they consequently fought, and Howel fell a victim to the superior prowess of his kinsman. Near the place where they contended was a large oak, the trunk of which was hollow; into this cavity the body of the brave but headstrong Lord of Nannau was cast, and Owen and his train hastened home to Glyndyfrdwy. The disappearance of their lord caused the greatest alarm and consternation at the castle: all possible search was made, but without effect, and his sorrowing lady secluded herself from the world in the solitude of her lonely and now gloomy residence. Year succeeded year, and still no tidings were received of the absent Howel. At length, one tempestuous evening in November, an armed horseman was descried urging his flagging steed up the hill which leads to Nannau from the neighbouring town of Dolgellau; he passed quickly on his way, and, arriving at the castle, demanded an audience of its sad and solitary mistress. It was Madog, who, his friend Glyndwr being dead, had hastened to clear up the mystery in which the disappearance of Howel Sele was involved. He told his tale, and led the astonished and trembling domestics to the sepulchre, which enclosed the bones of their lord: it was opened, and the skeleton

skeleton of Howel was discovered, grasping with his right hand the sword he was accustomed usually to wear; his remains were interred in the neighbouring monastery of Cymmer, with all the pomp and ceremony of Catholic superstition, and masses were performed for the repose of his incensed and troubled spirit. The oak in which Howel's body was deposited is the same which I have alluded to in the opening of the sketch; and it was standing about seven or eight years ago. A violent storm, however, cast to the earth this venerable "monarch of the forest," and the worthy baronet, in whose domains it was situated, caused its wood to be manufactured into a variety of utensils, and the same to be distributed among his friends. A short time before it was blown down an eminent amateur artist made a sketch of it, from which engravings have since been taken, and there is scarcely a house in Dolgellau but what contains one, at least, of these engravings, framed in the very wood, which is of a beautifully dark colour, approaching to ebony, of the Ceubren yr Ellyll. At Nannau there are several relics of this majestic tree; among others, I must not omit to mention, is a frame, containing an engraved full-length portrait of the memorable Pitt,—the frame is unadorned by the gilder, but it presents an appearance, to use the phrase of a celebrated Welsh writer, of magnificent simplicity. Under the portrait is the following motto, particularly happy in its allusion to the "pilot who weathered the storm:"—

Y Gwyr
Fal y dderwen
A wynebodd
Y dymestl.

From an account by Sir Richard Colt Hoare, inserted in a subsequent number of the *Cambro-Briton*, it appears that the description given by the above writer of the downfall of this celebrated oak is incorrect.—"During a visit," says the worthy baronet, "to Sir Robert Vaughan, in the summer of the year 1813, this aged tree, mentioned by Mr. Pennant, attracted my notice: and, on the morning of the 13th of July, I made a drawing of it, in one of the most sultry days I ever felt; the succeeding night was equally hot, and on the same night this venerable oak fell to the ground."

As a proof of the ignorance of the inhabitants of this part of Wales in the dark days of popery, and of the vindictive spirit which is fostered instead of being checked by that religion, it may be mentioned that the parson of the parish of Llanvrothen was murdered at a place called Ogo'r Llechwin, by some wretches who were employed for that purpose, because he had fostered a child of the leader of one party, in opposition to the wishes of another clan, who were at enmity with them. When a murder of this kind was committed, the perpetrators had only to fly to some sanctuary, or betake themselves for protection to the principals of a clan at enmity with that which they had offended.

This

This district had the honour of producing three celebrated bards: viz.—Rhŷs Gôch o Eryri, who lived on his own property at Havod-Garregog; Rhŷs Nanmor; and David Nanmor. The three flourished at the same time, from 1410 to 1460; and some of their compositions are yet extant.

The parish of Trawsfynydd, the "cross mountain," hath its church dedicated to Madryn, a female saint, who lived in the sixth century. Mr. Pennant, after emerging from the thick woods and deep dingles near the waterfalls of Pistill Cain and Rhaidr Mawddach, observes—"After quitting these romantic depths, I reached a long extent of woodless tract, the vast parish of Trawsfynydd, walled in on all sides by lofty rugged mountains of various forms." This view impresses the traveller with an idea of dreariness, barrenness, solitude, and discomfort. On a flat stone at a farm-house, called Llech-Idris, the property of Sir W. W. Wynn, Bart. is the following inscription in Roman letters:—"Porus hic in tumulo jacet Homo Pianus fuit:" the place is called Bedd Porus, or Porus's grave. In a field, not far from it, is a great upright stone, called Llech-Idris, or Idris's pillar, which is supposed to be one of those denominated Meini Gwyr, that generally mark a warrior's grave. Part of the Roman road, called Sarn Helen, is here visible: it is regularly paved, and is eight yards wide; and there are tumuli near it, at various distances: in one of these were found five urns, and several fragments of bricks had been placed round them, to prevent them being crushed. Castell Prysor ("the castle in the cold Brush-wood," prysg oer), is a small fort, placed in a pass between the hills, nearly on the road from Trawsfynydd to Caergai and Bala: it is supposed to be Roman, notwithstanding it is built with stones without any mortar; for several coins and urns have been discovered near it: between it and Ffestiniog is a small lake, called Llwyn-Rathlyn, noted for its peculiarly-formed perch, the lower part of the back-bone, near the tail, being strangely distorted. Henry Wynn, sixth son of Sir John Wynn, of Gwydir, married Catherine, daughter and heiress of Ellis Lloyd, Esq. of Rhiwgoch, in this parish; and his son John, afterwards Sir John Wynn, Bart. married Jane, daughter of Eyton Evans and heiress of Wynnstay, and thus eventually became the founder of that family. Humphrey Lloyd was born at Bodufuddion, in this parish, about the year 1600, and was made Prebendary of York by Archbishop Williams. He was interred at Bangor, in Bishop Rowlands's grave, January 18th, 1688, aged 78.

To the parish church of Llanfachreth Sir Robert Williames Vaughan, Bart. built an addition, in the year (1820) when our late beloved sovereign King George the Third died, and erected two tablets to his memory within the same building. Rice Jones, a noted Welsh bard, was a native of this parish, he published a book called Gorchestion y Beirdd, and died at Blaenau, in 1801. Owain Gwynedd,

Gwynedd, son of Sir Evan, of Garno, was a celebrated bard in his time: he composed an eulogistic ode addressed to John Owen, Esq. son of Lewis Owen, Esq. Vice-Chamberlain, and Baron of the Exchequer of North Wales, who lived at Llwyn, near Dolgellau. Owain Gwynedd was curate of Dolgellau about the year 1560. Sir Owain ap Gwilym, curate of Tal y Llyn, in this county, wrote an elegy on the tragical death of the said Baron Owen. William Lleyn, curate of Oswestry, another celebrated bard, composed an ode in praise of Gruffydd Nannau, Esq. the first who assumed that name, which continued to distinguish the family till the death of Colonel Nanney, of Nannau.

Llangelynin parish is frequently called Celynin.—The parish church is near the sea-shore, and very inconveniently situate for the attendance of the inhabitants, there being but one or two cottages near it; and Llwyngwril, the principal village, is at the distance of nearly two miles to the north. The ruins of Caer Bradwen and Llys Bradwen before noticed are in the township of Is-Cregenau, which is in this parish. Llywelyn ap Tewdwr ap Gwyn ap Peredur ap Ednowain ap Bradwen lived in the time of Edward the First, and did him homage with the lords and gentry of Wales. Aron, the grandchild of Llywelyn ap Tewdwr, by his son Ednyved, had two sons more eminent than the rest of his children, viz. Ednyved and Gruffydd: of this last descended William David Lloyd, of Peniarth, Esq. Ednyved ap Aron is reported to have entertained Owain Glyndwr when he was in distress, and when his affairs were in a declining state; and tradition states that Owain concealed himself in a cave by the sea-side in this parish, and which is still known by the name of Ogof Owain, "Owen's Cave:" from Ednyved descended Morgan ap Gruffydd ap Eineon, a stout courageous man, who, according to the account given by some of his descendants, met King Henry the Eighth, by chance, late at night in the streets of London, his Majesty being in disguise, and wishing to see whether order was kept in the city; as neither of them would give way, they drew their swords and fought obstinately for some time, until Morgan's companion, perceiving some of the king's guards approaching, ordered him to desist, and informed him that he expected his antagonist to be the monarch; upon this Morgan begged for mercy, and the King allowed him to depart, merely observing that he was a lusty fellow: ever after, it is added, he was called "lusty Morgan." Ednowain ap Bradwen bore for his arms,—Gules, three snakes entwined in a triangular knot Argent. He was Lord of the Hundred of Talybont, excepting the Township of Nannau, in Llanfachreth, and the Prince's Demesnes; he was also Lord of the greater part of the Hundred of Estumanner.—One Mary Thomas, of Tyddyn Bach, in this parish, is mentioned by Mr. Pennant as having fasted a very great length of time. Another singular character, a native of this parish, is mentioned by

by Mr. Pennant, viz. Arise Evans, a pretended conjuror and astrologer: he is noticed with admiration and respect by his great pupil, William Lilly, and his person minutely described.

Half a mile above Caer-Onn is a level place on the top of a hill called Gwastad Merioneth, and near it a small field called Pumtheg, either from the number of fifteen large stones or pillars, and druidical altars, or because fifteen different lakes may be seen from thence, as it commands a very extensive and beautiful prospect. At Llanfendigaid, "The Church of the Blessed," in this parish, there was, some years ago, a small chapel, the only remaining part of an old church; a beautifully-carved screen was removed about fifty years ago to a house called Maes-y-Pandy, in the parish of Tal-y-Llyn, and part of it made use of as a bed-tester.—Just below Llangelynin church, running out into the sea, are the remains of an old wall or embankment called Sarn-y-Bwch, which is supposed to have had a communication with Sarn Badrig. Others are of opinion that Sarn-y-Bwch extended from the mouth of the river Dysynni to Saint David's Head, and Sarn Badrig from the Antro to Bardsey; these two, together with Sarn Gynfelyn, near Aberystwith, are generally supposed to have been some of the embankments of Cantref-y-Gwaelod, or the Lowland Hundred. A remarkable battle was fought at a place called Castell, near Rhôs Lefain, now a farm-house; and at Bron-y-Clydwr, in this parish, was formerly a dissenting chapel, with a cemetery near it. At Tal-y-Bont, on the banks of the Dysynni, is a large tumulus called Tommen Eithin; and another on the opposite side of the river, in the parish of Towyn. They were, probably, the foundations of two timber castelets erected here to protect the ford across the river. Near the sea-coast was an old mill called Felin Freuan, so called from a quern or small hand-mill formerly used in Wales. Near the Ogof Owain, or Ogof Llanfendigaid, was discovered, many years ago, a stone with an inscription, by the assistance of which was discovered Ffynon Gadvan, or St. Cadvan's Well, near Towyn, Merioneth. The ancient family of Llanfendigaid, who were a branch of the Nanneys, were celebrated by the Bards in the time of Henry the Eighth and Queen Elizabeth, for their munificence and hospitality: by Hugh ap John ap Hywel in particular, to whom the bard, William Lleyn, curate of Oswestry, addressed an encomiastic ode, and afterwards wrote an elegy on his death, which happened in 1574.—Near Pwll Orthog, in this parish, is a small neat new chapel which is served by the curate of Llangelynin.

Pennal, *i.e.* Penael, "the Summit of the Brow," hath its church dedicated to Saint Peter. The old church, which was partly built with the ruins of the Roman fortress of Cefn Caer, was taken down about the year 1769, and a new church erected with the materials; but being wholly covered with stucco, the Roman bricks are concealed from view. Mr. Robert Vaughan, of Hengwrt, in his sketch of the history

history of this county, affirms, that he saw a silver coin of Domitian, that was dug up at Cefn Caer. It is probable that a Roman road, leading from Conovium (Caer Rhûn, near Conway) to Lucarum, near Swansea, in Glamorganshire, passed by Dolgellau, and to the west of Cader-Idris to Pennal; from thence to Llanbadarn-Fawr, near Aberystwyth, where Roman remains have been discovered, and through the parish of Llanfihangel y Creuddin, where there are evident traces of a Roman road; thence to Llanio (Lovantium), six miles east of Lampeter, where several Roman inscriptions were discovered; thence over the hill to Talley, Llandilo-Vawr, and Slwchwr (Leucarrum). Near the river side is a tumulus, or an artificial hillock, called Tommen-Lâs, on the summit of which, no doubt, there was a timber fort or castle to guard the ford. At a place called Y-Maes-y-Mhenal, otherwise Wttra Bennal, a battle was fought between Thomas ap Gruffydd ap Nicholas, of Dynevor, for the House of Lancaster, and Henry ap Gwilym, of Court Henry, one of the Earl of Pembroke's captains, for the House of York, in which Thomas Gruffydd gained the field. Here also the same Thomas ap Gruffydd ap Nicholas fought a most bloody combat or duel with David Gough, a near kinsman of Matthew Gough, a famous warrior in the times of Henry the Fifth and Henry the Sixth, wherein the celebrated David Gough fell by the sword of Thomas ap Gruffydd ap Nicholas. The celebrated bard, Llewelyn Goch ap Meurig Hên, of Nannau, who flourished about the year 1400, composed a beautiful pathetic elegy on the death of Lleucu Llwyd (Lucy Lloyd), a celebrated beauty of this parish.

Upon the south bank of the river Lliw, in the parish of Llanuwchllyn, in the hundred of Penllyn, on a high craggy rock, are the decayed towers, wall, and ruins of a castle, called Castell Carn Dochen, the mortar of which is mixed with cockleshells, brought by land-carriage fourteen miles: and nearly opposite to it is another ancient fortress, called Caer-Gai, built in the time of the Romans, as it is generally supposed, from a number of Roman coins having been discovered here: one or two were found not many years ago of the Emperor Domitian: here also was dug up a Roman monumental stone. This place was called Cai-hîr ap Gynyr, so named from King Arthur's foster-brother, who is said to have resided here. Camden says it was built by one Caius a Roman; but this appears to be mere conjecture. It is evident that Spenser, who was deeply read in all the romance of his days, had heard the tradition of Caer-gai, and its old inhabitant Cai-hîr, "Cai, the tall," the foster-brother of King Arthur, and his companion in romance, to whom he chuses to give the more classical name of Timon, for so Prince Arthur is made to name his foster-father (foster-brother according to the Welsh M.S.):—

> Unto old Timon, he me brought by live
> Old Timon, who in youthful years had been,

In

In warlike feats the expertest man alive,
And is the wisest now on earth I ween:
His dwelling is low, in valley green,
Under the foot of Rauran* mossie hore,
From whence the river Dee, as silver clean,
His tumbling billows rolls, with gentle rore;
There all his days he trained me up in virtuous lore.

Fairy Queen, Book I. Canto IX.

In Llanuwchllyn church is the figure of an armed man, with a conical helmet, and mail muffer round his chin and neck; on his breast is a wolf's head, on the lower part of his body another, and in the intervening space three roses: the first are the arms of Ririd Flaidd, the others of Cunedda Wledig, a Cambrian prince, whose sons, after their father had been defeated by the Saxons in the sixth century, retired and possessed themselves of these parts of Wales. Meirion, one of his grandsons, is said to have given the name of Merioneth to this county. On the 20th of June, 1781, a great quantity of rain fell in this parish, and a large tract of land in Cwm Clynlwyd, and in Cwm Twrch, was destroyed by the bursting of a thunder cloud, which caused the river to overflow its banks in so dreadful a manner as to sweep away every impediment; cattle and sheep were drowned, and meadows and corn fields covered with gravel and slime; five bridges were swept away, and several houses at Pandy village were completely destroyed.

Llanaelhaiarn.—In Ecton's Browne Willis's *Thesaurus Rerum Ecclesiasticarum*, a rectory of this name is mentioned as being in the deanry of Penllyn and Edeirnion, and dedicated to Saint Elhaiarne, who lived in the middle of the seventh century; and in an old M. S. the following memorandum is made respecting it:—"This Rect. Aelhayarn. There was formerly a chapel, called Capel Aelhayarn; the place still known by that name is in the parish of Gwyddelwern."

Gwyddelwern, "The Alder Grove," hath its church dedicated to Saint Beuno. Near it is a place called Saith Marchog, from the circumstance of Owain Glyndwr having there surprized Reginald de Grey, and seven knights in his train. A family took a name similar to this, Saeth-Marchog, or the shot or arrow of a knight, and bore for arms a lion rampant argent in a field azure, upon a canton argent an arrow's head gules. Lowry, the heiress of this family, married Thomas Myddelton, of Garthgynan. In this neighbourhood is Caer Drewyn, a fortified encampment, being one of a chain of posts beginning near Diserth, and continuing along the Clwydian hills to the mountains of Iâl.

Llan-Danwg hath its church dedicated to Tanwg, a saint, who was one of those who accompanied Cadfan from Armorica in the beginning of the sixth century. In this parish was discovered, in the last century, a very curious piece of antiquity, viz. a golden torques, or wreathed rod or chain of gold: the use of it, according to Mr. Pennant,

* Yr Aran.

nant, was that of a baldric, to suspend gracefully the quiver of men of rank, which hung behind by means of a hook, and the golden wreath crossed the breast and passed over the shoulder. The British chiefs, and warriors generally, wore also a chain of gold about the neck and another round the arm; and the celebrated British heroine Boadicea wore a large torques of this description. At no great distance from Harlech are several Meini-Hirion, or columnar stones, which were intended probably to mark the spot where some celebrated hero or heroes fell in battle. In this neighbourhood also are several Cyttiawr Gwyddelod, or the foundations and ruins of the rude dwellings or habitations of wood-rangers, erected for the purposes of hunting. The church is most inconveniently situate upon a small isthmus, or point of land, at the mouth of the river Artro, "the crooked or winding stream."

Llan-Aber, "the church at the mouth of the river."—At Hendref Fechan, in this parish, lived four celebrated bards of the name of Philip, viz. William, Richard, John, and Thomas; they flourished in the reigns of Queen Elizabeth, James I. and Charles I.

Llanbedr is situate on the river Artro. The mouth of this river is by some writers represented as the place where Gwyddno Goronhir's weir was situate, and where the far-famed British bard Taliesin was discovered by Elphin, son of that prince, in a leather bag attached to one of the poles of the weir. The prince took compassion on the infant, and had him properly educated, and introduced him into his father's court. Mr. Pennant, in one of his excursions, visited a venerable old gentleman of the name of Evan Llwyd, whose residence was near the beautiful lake of Llyn Cwm Bychan, and whose ancestors have been in possession of that property since the year 1100. One of these, Davydd Llwyd, a celebrated warrior, was present at the battle of Bosworth, in 1485, with King Henry the Seventh. A Welsh tune, called Ymadawaid Dai Llwyd, or "David Llwyd's Farewell," was composed at the time of his departure.—Drws Ardudwy, a fortified pass between the mountains, is in this neighbourhood: it was probably occupied by the sons of Cadwgan in their contests with Uchtryd ap Edwyn, whom they at last expelled from the country.

Llanddwywen, or Llanddwywau, *alias* Llan-Dewi Is y Graig ("Saint David's below the Rock").—The church is dedicated, according to Ecton, to Holy Cross, but, as asserted by Dr. W. O. Pughe in his *Cambrian Biography*, to a British saint of the name of Dwywan, son of Hywel ap Emyr Llydaw, and brother of Dervel Gadarn, or "Dervel the Mighty," who flourished about the sixth century. In this parish are three small lakes, viz. Llyn Irddin, Llyn Dulynn, and Llyn Bodlynn; the latter is well stocked with char, called by the natives of the country Tor-Goch ("Red-bellies"). Llynn-Cwm-Howel is another lake in this neighbourhood, noted for a species of trout, "which I have seen," says Mr. Pennant, "with most

most deformed heads, thick, flatted, and toad-shaped;" and which probably might give rise to the fabled accounts of the monstrous species recorded by Giraldus. Near Llyn Irddin are several druidical antiquities: the first is a circle about 56 feet in diameter, formed of piles of loose stones, with upright columns placed at five yards distance from each other, in pairs, so as nearly to divide the circle into four parts: about thirty yards from this is a smaller one, with several upright stones, but placed with less regularity. Half a mile south of these, on the side of a hill, are two carnedds (or large heaps of stones) of a most stupendous size; also a cromlech, or druidical altar or tombstone, a maen-hir or columnar stone, and a cistvaen or stone coffin. The largest carnedd is 50 feet long, and 12 high in the middle; the columns are from ten to twelve feet high. North-west of these antiquities, on the top of a hill, is a strong post called Castell Dinas Cortin, entrenched around, with an advanced work on one side. This, and another small fort called Castell Craig y Dinas (" the Town-Rock Castle,") seem to have been formed as defences to the above-mentioned antiquities, as well as to two other great carnedds placed on small eminences near to each other, within one of which are the remains of a cistvaen. The druidical circles and cromlechs might have been here long prior to the carneddi and the forts; and this place was probably the scene of a bloody battle, the carneddi being formed over the bodies of the slain, the most distinguished of whom were probably interred in these stone coffins. At no great distance is another eminence called Bryn Cornyn Iou, which is, as translated by Mr. Pennant, " the Hill of the Horns of Jove;" but he supposes the hill to have been originally called Bryn Cerrwnnos, in honour of a deity venerated by the Gauls and Britons, who presided over the amusements of the chase. This appears to be a far-fetched and very improbable conjecture. It may be nothing more than Bryn y Cerniau, or Bryn y Gyrniau, " the Eminence amongst the Conical Rocks;" Bryn y Carniau, " the Eminence amongst the Stone Heaps." A carn, as well as carnedd, means " a large heap of stones." Near a tenement called Bryn y Voel there is a cromlech, 16 feet 4 inches long, 7 feet 4 inches broad, and 20 inches thick.— At no great distance from this village is a house called Maes y Garnedd, the birth-place of the regicide Colonel Jones, whose insolence to the neighbouring gentry in the time of Oliver Cromwell was, till within these few years, spoken of with great abhorrence.— The road from Trawsfynydd to this part of the county, called Ardudwy, is through a narrow defile or rocky pass, where the traveller has to ascend at times a hazardous flight of numerous stone steps, and at others to descend along the slippery rock, while his path is overhung by huge, lofty, impending precipices. The horrors of this desolate scene cannot easily be described. The narrowest part of the pass is called Drws Ardudwy, " the Door-way to Ardudwy."— In

In this parish is Cors-y-Gedol, the ancient family seat of the Vaughans, and now the property of the Mostyn family. Mr. Pennant, when on his tour through this part of North Wales, spent some days here with William Vaughan, Esq. where (as he observes) he was entertained in the style of an ancient baron. There is a long avenue of trees leading from the highroad to the house. The woods are extensive, but affected in a very singular manner by the westerly winds: the tops are shorn quite even, and the boughs so interwoven as to resemble a close and almost impenetrable curtain. There were but few inns in North Wales fit for the reception of a gentleman at the commencement of the last century; and the usual method, when a person of some respectability travelled, was to obtain letters of introduction to the resident gentlemen of that part of the country which he intended visiting. Indeed, at that time there was so little travelling, that it was considered quite a pleasant occurrence when a stranger thus recommended visited a country gentleman. At this mansion, and many others in Wales, it was the usual practice to place a large piece of cold beef on the table in the great hall every day, together with a tankard of strong ale, and every stranger was welcome to partake of this good cheer. On the north-west side of the parish church is a chapel appropriated for the burial place of this family; underneath are the vaults; and along the walls are several monuments, on one of which is inscribed the pedigree of the Vaughans, who were descended from Osborn Fitzgerald (a branch of the Desmond Fitzgeralds), called by the Welsh Osbwrn Wyddel, or "Osbwrn the Irishman." He came into Wales in the time of Llywelyn the Great, and was much favoured by that prince.—This chapel is separated from the body of the church by some open trellis or lattice-work.

Llanfihangel y Pennant (Saint Michael's at the head of the dingle) is situate in a narrow dingle, at the foot of Cader Idris, on the banks of a small rivulet called Llaethnant otherwise Cegidva. On the top of a high rock there formerly stood a castle, known by the names of Y Beri, Castell Teberri, or Castell y Beri, built either by Gruffydd ap Cynan, Prince of North Wales, or by Hugh Lupus, Earl of Chester, when Gruffydd had been treacherously betrayed into his hands by Meirion Goch. The etymology given of the name by the Rev. Mr. Evans, author of specimens of Welsh poetry, is Castell yr Aberau, the castle at the conflux: another probable derivation is Castell y Beri, the castle or nest of kites: as it is a steep rock, to which numbers of birds of prey retire at night, and also make their nests in the summer season. A third derivation is Castell y Bera, "The Pyramid Castle," from the form of the rock. Thomas of Walsingham says, that after the death of the last prince Llywelyn, William de Valence, Earl of Pembroke, took the same from the said prince's garrison.

Tal y Llyn (the head of the Lake) hath its church dedicated to Saint Mary. The village is situate in a narrow vale on the south of Cader

Cader Idris, and at the west end of a lake nearly a mile in length, called Llyn Meingul, or "The Narrow Lake," which abounds with fine trout. Here is a fine large spring, called Ffynnon Cwm Rhwyfor, which is considered to be efficacious in the cure of rheumatic and other disorders. Dysynni river is a spring near a place called Craig y Cae, not far from the summit of Cader Idris. It appears from an old inquisition, that the lands between the rivers Dyfi and Dulas were in times past considered as part of the commot of Estumanner, in which this parish is situate; as Eineon ap Seisyllt, who held them in capite of his brother, Prince Llywelyn Vawr ap Seisyllt, upon some disagreement between himself and Eineon, fled to the Prince of Powys, and placed himself under his protection, and thus this district became alienated from Gwynedd to Powys.—Sir Owain ap Gwilym, a celebrated bard, was curate of this parish about the year 1570. William Lleyn composed an elegy on his death, which is still extant. Owain Gwynedd, curate of Dolgellau, another bard, wrote an elegy on the death of the same gentleman, and Hugh Arwystle, another bard, composed an elegy on a similar subject. At a place called Llwyn Dôl Ithel, in the year 1684, was found, about three yards deep, a coffin made of deal, seven feet long, carved and gilt at both ends. Two skeletons, supposed to be of different sexes, were found in it, placed with the head of one parallel to the feet of the other; the bones were moist and tough, of an uncommon size, the thigh bones being twenty-seven inches long. A few miles from Tal y Llyn church the vale contracts, and the hills are a shorter distance from each other; the sides of the mountains are broken into a thousand crags, some conical and sharp-pointed, but the greater part overhanging the base so as to have the appearance of being ready to overwhelm the passenger. One of these precipices is called Pen y Delyn, "the Harp Rock," from a resemblance to that instrument. Another is called Llam y Lladron, or "the Thieves' Leap," from a tradition that thieves were wont to be brought there and thrown down. It is not improbable that such a punishment might have been inflicted in the barbarous days of heathenism. The late Counsellor Fenton, author of the *History of Pembrokeshire*, resided for some time at Aberlliweni, in this parish.

Llan-Gower, or Llangywair, hath its church dedicated to Saint Gwawr, mother of Llywarch Hên. The village is situated on the south side of Pimblemere, or Bala lake. Near this place is a stone called Llech Gower, which is marked with the sign of the cross; and also a well called Ffynnon Gower. Upon the east bank of the river Dee, near the lake, are two small mounts, one of which bears the name of Castell Gronow Befr o Benllyn, "the Castle of Gronow the Fair of Penllyn." He is said to have lived in the time of Maelgwn Gwynedd, about the beginning of the sixth century.—Edward Lloyd, M. A. was incumbent of this parish in 1683; he published a Welsh book called *Meddyginiaeth*, &c.

Llanycil,

Llanyccil, or Llanycil, "the Church in the Recess," hath its church dedicated to Saint Beuno. Glan y Llyn, in this parish, formerly belonged to the Vaughans, but is now the property of Sir W. W. Wynn, Bart. who resides here a few days in the grousing and fishing season. The two Arennigs (Mawr and Bach, "large and small,") are in this parish, and an old castle called Castell Carn Dochen, before mentioned.—The Roman road from Eryri Mons, Tommen y Mur, and Castell Prysor, to Mediolanum, must have passed by Caer Gai and this castle, and very likely by Bala and Ffordd Helen or Milltirgerrig, to Llanfyllin.

Llandrillo hath its church dedicated to Saint Trillo, one of the sons of Ithel Hael, who accompanied Cadfan into Wales in the beginning of the sixth century: there is a strong spring near the village, called Ffynnon Drillo. Llandrillo is situated in the matchless vale of Edeirnion (as Mr. Pennant terms it), near the torrent Ceidio, and on the banks of the river Dee, at the mouth of a great glen, with the lofty and extensive Berwyn range of mountains immediately to the south. The hundred of Edeirnion, in which this parish is situated, is so called, as supposed, from Edeyrn, one of the sons of Cunedda Wledig, who lived in the fourth century, when that prince, with his children, was expelled from his original patrimony in Cumberland and the neighbouring districts.

Llangar "the church near the fortress" hath its church dedicated to All Saints. In a field called Caer Bont is a circular entrenchment, consisting of a fosse and rampart, with two entrances, meant, perhaps, as a guard to this pass. On the summit of a hill, called Y Foel, is a circle of stones, ten yards in diameter, within which was a circular cell, about six feet in diameter; and at the distance of about one hundred yards, facing the circle of stones, are the remains of a great carnedd, surrounded with large stones. At the end of a dingle, about half a mile from the church, is Rhaiader Cynwyd, or the fall of Cynwyd: the water of the river Trystion bursts from the sides of the hill through deep and narrow chasms, from rock to rock, which are overgrown with trees: in this sequestered spot is situated a little mill, which greatly adds to the picturesque beauty of the scene.

Llansaintfraid hath its church dedicated to Saint Fraid, called by the English Saint Bride, who lived about the middle of the seventh century. The village is pleasantly situated near the river Dee, on the north bank of that river: it contains a small room, called the prison-house of Owain Glyndwr, where it is said Owain confined his captives. Rhagarth, where Owain Glyndwr is supposed to have had a palace, is in this parish, and has been for many years the seat of the ancient family of Lloyd.

Rhûg is the name of a lordship, township, chapel, and gentleman's seat: it is situated about a mile west of Corwen. Colonel William Salisbury, Governor of Denbigh Castle in the civil wars of the sixteenth

sixteenth century, founded and endowed the present chapel at Rhûg. Here Gruffydd ap Cynan, King of Wales, was betrayed into the hands of his enemies, Hugh Lupus, Earl of Chester, and Hugh Belesme, Earl of Shrewsbury, by the treason and treachery of one of his subjects, Meirion Goch (Meirion the red). He was conveyed to Chester castle, where he endured twelve years imprisonment, but was at length released by the bravery of a young man of this vicinity of the name of Cynrig Hîr, who went to Chester under pretence of purchasing necessaries, and then took an opportunity, while the keepers were feasting, to carry away his prince, loaded with irons, on his back, to a place of safety. In aftertimes this house and demesne became the property of Owain Brogyntyn, natural son of Madog ap Meredydd, a Prince of Powys. Such was the merit of Brogyntyn, that he shared his father's inheritance equally with his legitimate brethren. By the marriage of Margaret Wenn, daughter and heiress of Ievan ap Hywel, a descendant of Brogyntyn, with Pyers Salusbury, of Bachymbyd, were derived the Salusburies, of Rûg, a name existing in the male line till the last century. On the attainder of Owain Glyndwr, Henry IV. sold this lordship to Robert Salisbury, of Rûg. In the garden at Rûg is a mount or tumulus, on the summit of which, in ancient times, was a castelet, most probably of timber, as many were so formed before the invention of gunpowder.

Llanymawddwy, "the church of Mawddwy, or overflowing water." —The church here is dedicated to Saint Tydecho, who lived at the close of the fifth and beginning of the sixth century. The village is situated two miles north of Dinas Mawddwy, near the source of the river Dovey, in the long and narrow vale of Mawddwy: this glen or ravine is so contracted as scarcely to admit a meadow at the bottom of it; its boundaries are vast hills, very verdant and fine sheep walks. In one place the mountains open and exhibit the rugged and wild summit of Aran Mawddwy, which majestically soars above. The inclosures are divided by excellent quickset hedges, and run far up the sides of the hills, in places so steep that a person unaccustomed to mountain land would hardly be able to stand erect on them. Numbers of little groves are interspersed, and the hills above them are covered with fine turf to the summit, where the bog and heath commence, which afford shelter to multitudes of red and a few black grouse: but the importance of this turf to those parts is infinitely greater, as it is the fuel used by all the inhabitants. The turbaries are placed very remotely from their dwellings, and the turf or peat is procured with great difficulty. The roads from the brows of the mountains, in general, are too steep for a horse: the men, therefore, carry up on their backs a light sledge, fill it with a very considerable load, and drag it, by means of a rope placed over their breast, to the brink of the slope; then go before and draw it down gently, still preceding and guiding its motions, which at times have been so violent

as

as to overturn and draw along with it the person who guided it, at the hazard of his life, and not without considerable bodily injury. When the turbaries lie at a great distance from the brow of the hill, the natives are obliged to bring a horse by a circuitous path to them to assist in dragging the turf to the brink of the slope. The source of the river Dovey is at the foot of a rude rock, called Craig Llyn Dyfi, under Aran Mawddwy.

We cannot conclude without observing that the county of Merioneth has for several centuries been celebrated for the beauty of its women. A very popular song has been composed by a Welsh bard on this subject, each stanza of which ends with "Morwynion Glan Merionydd," *i. e.* the beautiful Mervinian maids—

"Where greater beauty can you find?
Each villager has charms:
In thee Mervinia dwell the fair,
Who rule all hearts, or cause despair.
* * * * * * *
And yet how far the maids excel
Who in Mervinia's vallies dwell!

"But what Bala is famous for," says Lord Lyttelton, when he wrote to Archibald Bowyer, "is the beauty of its women, and indeed I saw there one of the prettiest girls I ever beheld: but such is my virtue, that I have kissed none since I came into Wales, except an old maiden lady, a sister of Mr. Brynker, at whose house I now lodge, and who is the ugliest woman of her quality in Great Britain; but I know a duchess or two I should be still more afraid of kissing than her."

Names of learned men, bards, &c. natives of the county of Merioneth:—Rev. Edmund Prys, A. M. Archdeacon of Merioneth, 1626; Robert Vaughan, of Hengwrt, antiquary, 1660; Rowland Vaughan, Esq. of Caer Gai, 1680; Rhŷs Goch o Eryri (Havod Garregog), bard, 1420; Rhŷs Nanmor, of Nanmor, bard, flourished 1460; Davydd Nanmor, bard, flourished 1460; John Philip, Dyffryn Ardudwy, bard, flourished 1580; Richard Philip, Dyffryn Ardudwy, bard, flourished 1635; William Philip, bard, flourished 1650; Griffith Philip, Dyffryn Ardudwy, bard, 1680; Hugh Llwyd, Cynvel, Ffestiniog, bard, flourished 1590; Ievan Dyfi, Aber Dovey, bard, flourished 1490; Ievan ap Tewdwr, Penllyn, flourished 1480; Sir Lewis Mawddwy; Sion Mawddwy, 1580; Llywelyn Goch ap Meurig Hên, Nannau, bard, 1400; Sir Owain ap Gwilym, curate of Tal y Llyn, bard, 1560; Sir Rhŷs o'r Derwen, Corwen, bard, 1460; Robin Dyfi, Glan Dyfi, bard; Tewdwr Penllyn, bard, flourished 1460: William Dyfi, bard, flourished 1480; Ellis Wynn, Lâs Ynys, author of "Bardd Cwsg," 1700; Edward Urien, Dyffryn Ardudwy, bard, 1714; Henry Salusbury of Rûg, Esq.; Rice Jones, of Blaenau, author of "Gorchestion y Beirdd," 1777; David Richards, of Morva Bychan, Tywyn, author of "Cywydd y Drindod," 1809;

1809; Ellis Lewis, Llwyngwern, translator of "Ystyriaethau ar Dragywyddoldeb, 1700; Rev. John Williams, rector of Llanfrothen, translator of "Blaenor i Gristion," &c. 1703; Rev. Mr. Morgan, rector of Llanaber, 1750; Rev. Roger Edwards, curate of Llanaber, 1760; Rowland Huw, of Graienyn, near Bala, a poet, who died in the year 1803, aged about 88, he presided at the Bala Eisteddfod, in 1799.

ANGLESEA.

NUMEROUS are the given etymologies of this island, and as much has been said respecting its primitive inhabitants, but nothing superior to the abstruse origin of every other country, therefore at this remote period they must for ever remain dubious, or rest on a hypothesis founded by the inventive mind of man, which, after labouring to dispel the cloud that involves us in darkness, must ultimately desist, and leave it too great for human elucidation. The ancient inhabittants are said to have denominated this island Y Fôn Ynys, or "the Furthermost Island;" Y Fôn Wlad, "the Lowermost Country;" and Tir Môn signifies the same as the Latin words *Fin, or finis*, whence is derived the ancient name Mona, and its present Mon: sometimes written Ynys Dowyll, or "the Shady Island," alluding perhaps to the groves and other solemn places among the druids. The Saxons called it Moneg, until it was conquered by Edward the First, when we find the name of Englesea, or "the English Island," now generally written Anglesea, eqnally known to the Welsh by the appellation of Mon Mam Gymry, *i. e.* "Mon, the Nursery of Wales;" being an ancient and common proverb, because in times of scarcity this fruitful island supplied the principality with corn and other necessaries. It will be next asked why the Druids chose this island for their establishment: in answer it may be said, its lonesome and retired situation rendered it the fittest place, because less liable to be incommoded with the affrights and tumults of war, therefore favourable to the infant muses, and to afford every requisite lineament and growth to druidical knowledge. It was also a pleasant island, of a temperate soil, in the flower and vigour of nature, finely diversified with hills and vallies, plentifully purled with springs, numerous rivulets, and a wholesome air, so congenial to the wished longevity of man; and, above all, as the nature of the soil inclines us to believe, they found it enriched with the numerous bounties of sea and land, particularly spacious groves of the admired and beloved oak, which they held in the

the greatest estimation. The Pen Awyr, or "Misletoe," was also held in great veneration, in which they placed a very high mystery, and cut it down in great solemnity with a golden consecrated instrument, and carefully received it on a white garment, and preserved it with the highest veneration and worship. In these groves they had their erections and apartments, *i. e.* their mounts or hillocks, called in Welsh Gorseddau, wherefrom they pronounced their decrees or their solemn orations to the people. In the Llwyn, or grove, they frequently erected pillars and idols as memorials of their deified heroes, or they had in them a heap of stones called carn or carneddau, for they had a peculiar mode of worship by throwing and heaping of stones. They had also altars or cromlechs, on which they performed the solemnities of sacrifice and their sacred rules of divination. In some large or more eminent groves pillars and heaps of stones were enclosed together, or near, as they are to be seen to this day, and from the devastation of time often found separately, particularly heaps and columns. Hitherto this island has been represented as under the command and government of the Ancient Druids, with their establishment, authority, and religion; now it remains to be shewn how these religious societies came to be dissolved and rooted out of the island by the Romans, under whose sceptre it continued some hundred years after the defeat of Caractacus, and sending him prisoner to Rome. The Ordovices, or Men of North Wales, though deprived of their chief, made frequent attempts to shake off the galling yoke of a severe and unaccustomed subjection, therefore made this island a place of refuge whenever they became harrassed by the Roman legions; whence it has been called the island of heroes, and the refuge of the distressed Britons. In the time of Caractacus, it appears, Suetonius Paulinus was governor of Britain, and plainly saw there was no quelling the restless spirit of the bold and daring Ordovices while this island, the fountain of their courage, remained untouched. Convinced of the truth, he fitted out a little armada while the Britons or Druids were at their altars, uttering loud invocations and curses and sacrifices, so that the screams of dying victims were heard to echo one another from the hollow resounding groves in every quarter, and altars smoking with the horrid burnings of the bodies of men, women, and children—of rogues, profligates, and captives.

This was the state of the island when the Romans took to their boats, and were even swimming their horses over the Menai, with a concurrent tide, without the least opposition from the druids, who were no way prepared for their reception, except by venting the curses of their religion, which they expected would do greater execution on the daring assailants than the sharpest British darts or weapons. In this they were not quite deceived, for it is acknowledged by the Roman authors that the very sight of their mad ceremony for some

some time stupified the Roman soldiers more than the blows they received from their misguided enemies, until Suetonius called to his legions "to drive away the foolish multitude, whose vain imprecations and foolish gestures thought to stop the progress of the Roman arms, although they had already conquered the greater part of the then known world." Now the enraged Romans having got to land,* the conquering sword took its fill of British blood, while the giddy Druids stood still, without the array of battle, to see their sacrifices and oblations prove ineffectual on the fearless Romans. In this distressing situation of affairs, we are told the Druids nimbly slipt away to the woods and coverts, leaving their people to be miserably cut down and slaughtered by the advancing Romans, who, without pity or moderation, hacked and hewed down on all sides the unfortunate Britons, augmenting the flame of their unhappy sacrifices with the fuel of their slain and wounded bodies.† After this conquest, those who escaped the general carnage, or were concealed in holes and caves, made their escape to the sea, and were never after heard of, leaving the Romans in absolute possession of the island, and the sacred things and places, which they unmercifully demolished and threw prostrate under their insulting feet, or devoted to the most gross and barbarous purposes. To render the conquest permanent Suetonius settled a garrison over the separate districts and townships of the whole island, which secured to the Romans a peaceable possession, until their affairs became precarious at home, which compelled them to relinquish Britain once more to the Ancient Britons. The succeeding transactions and the introduction of the Saxons into the island of Britain need no illustration to shew the subsequent government and history of Anglesea.

This island, which constitutes one of the counties of North Wales, is situated on the north-west of Caernarvonshire, in the Irish sea, and only separated from the main land by a straight and narrow channel, called the Menai (over which has lately been built one of the most handsome chain bridges in this kingdom, and which has been described in our notices of Caernarvonshire). The island is of a rhomboidal shape, but deeply cut and indented on three of the sides; its northern, eastern, and western points are sharp and narrow; the southern angle is more round; and it is in the whole twenty miles long, seventeen broad, and seventy in circumference. In regard to the air it is in general good, except when the thick fogs arise from the Irish sea,

* The place of their landing, and their routing of this religious army, we have not an exact account of, but it is generally supposed to have been near Porthamel, betweeu Pwll-y-fuwch and Llanidan: for Tacitus says "that the horses swam it at the ford."

† Near Llanidan, there is at present a mount or tumulus, in the centre of a field, about three bows' shot from the sea, which seems to have been the place of this great sacrifice: and where the Druids took up the firebrands in their hands, brandishing them like furies about the army, and where the Romans involved the taken and slain Britons in the devouring flames of their own sacrifices.

sea, which in autumn are very cold and aguish. The soil, although it appears somewhat disagreeable to the eye, being rocky and mountainous, is more fertile by far than its rough appearance promises, as may be proved by the number of cattle and great quantities of corn sent annually to England: notwithstanding this much of the land lies undrained, and full of turfy bogs, or pointed rocks; yet there are some farms in the interior and along the coast in the richest state, particularly on that part opposite Caernarvonshire. The general face of the country is low, flat, and disagreeable, being in want of that variety which is always found where there are woods and mountains: but the former feature is comparatively small to what we are told it was in the times of the Druids. It is conjectured that Anglesea was once joined to the continent of Wales, but from the continual working of the ocean, has, in course of time, been scoured from the main land: and, for some time afterwards, the inhabitants of Wales and Anglesea held communications by means of a bridge, until the passage became too wide to be any longer maintained. Mr. Rowlands, in his *Mona Antiqua Restaurata*, says—"I will not affirm that this spot of ground was an island from the creation; for it is highly probable that the universal deluge made great and remarkable alterations on the face of the globe, raising some places which had been sea into dry land, and depressing others that were land beneath the irruptions of that liquid element made them seas: yet it is not altogether unlikely that there was for some space of time after the divulsions of the deluge, an arm of land joining the county of Anglesea to that of Caernarvonshire. If any such there was, it must have been at Porthaeth-hwy, where there is still to be seen a trace of small rocks jutting out in a line and crossing the channel, with other great splinters of rocks fallen and tumbled down, and appearing as if the sea had consumed and eaten away the soil in which they had been originally fixed, leaving the rocks bare and rugged, and the stones and broken shivers of the rocks in the bottom of the channel fallen and tumbled one upon another." Anglesea gives the title of Marquis to the Paget family.

BEAUMARIS,

or perhaps Beaumarish, as it was called in official papers in Queen Elizabeth's reign. The name is variously derived: some take it to be a compound of the French *beau*, fine, and *marais*, a marsh; others suppose that it is formed of the first word and *mer*, the sea, as expressive of the excellent road for shipping; while a third class explain Beaumaris, as if Bimaris, to allude to its position between two seas. It is the principal town in the island, is in the parish of Llandegvan, and is finely situate on the western bank of the Menai, where it opens into Beaumaris bay. It is generally neat and well built, with one remarkable good street, and considerable remains of the wall surrounding

rounding the town. The castle, built by Edward the First in 1295, stands close by the town, and covers a considerable space of ground, but from its low situation fails to attract particular attention; it is surrounded by a ditch, with an entrance on the east, between two embattled walls, with round and square towers. The gate opens into a court of 57 yards by 60, with four square towers, and on the east an advanced work, called the Gunner's Walk. Within these were the body of the castle, nearly square, having a round tower at each angle, and another in the centre of each face. The area is an irregular octagon, forming the court before-mentioned. In the middle of the north side is the hall, twenty yards long and twelve yards broad, with two round towers, and several about the inner and outward walls, built of a bluish stone, intermixed with square stones, which produce a pretty effect. There has been a communication round the buildings of the inner court by a gallery two yards broad, at present entire. In recesses in different parts of the sides of this are square holes, which seem to have been trap-doors, or openings into a dungeon beneath. The two eastern towers served also as dungeons, with a narrow and dark descent, as were the galleries round about. On the east side of this building are the remains of a very small chapel, arched and ribbed, with pointed and intersecting arches: likewise some gothic pilasters, narrow lancet windows, and various compartments, with closets gained out of the thickness of the wall. When Edward the First founded this town, and made it a corporation, he endowed it with lands and privileges to a considerable value, in order to secure more firmly his possessions in this island; he also cut a canal, in order to permit of vessels discharging their lading beneath the walls, as is evident by the iron rings affixed to its walls, for the purpose of mooring ships. The first governor was Sir William Pikmore, a Gascon knight, appointed by Edward the First: there was a constable of the castle, and a captain of the town: the first had an annual fee of forty pounds, the last £12. 3s. 4d.: and the porter of the gate at Beaumaris had £9. 2s. 6d. Twenty-four soldiers were allowed for the guard of the castle and town, at four-pence a day each. The constable of the castle was always captain of the town, except in one instance: in the 36th of Henry the Sixth, Sir John Boteler held the first office, and Thomas Norreys the other. The castle was extremely burthensome to the country: quarrels were frequent between the garrison and the country people. In the time of Henry the Sixth, a bloody fray happened, in which David ap Evan ap Howell of Llwydiarth and many others were slain. From the time of Sir Rowland Villeville alias Brittayne, reputed base son of Henry the Seventh, and constable of the castle, the garrison was withdrawn till the year 1642, when Thomas Cheadle, deputy to the Earl of Dorset, then constable, put into it men and ammunition. In 1643, Thomas Bulkeley, Esq. (soon after created Lord Bulkeley) succeeded

succeeded: his son, Colonel Richard Bulkeley, and several gentlemen of the country, held it for the king till June, 1646, when it was surrendered on honourable terms to General Mytton, who made Captain Evans his deputy-governor. In 1653, the annual expense of the garrison was £1703. Edward the First removed the ancient freeholders, by exchange of property, into other counties. Hên Llŷs, near the town, was the seat of Gwerydd ap Rhŷs Goch, head of one of the fifteen tribes, and of his posterity till this period, when Edward removed them to Bodlewyddan, in Flintshire, and bestowed their ancient patrimony on the corporation. Beaumaris is a chapelry, not in charge, to the rectory of Llandegvan. The church, formerly a chapel, dedicated to Saint Mary, is a handsome structure, with a lofty square tower; within the church there is a curious monument, probably of Sir Henry Sidney, who is mentioned in a Latin inscription, contained in the church; and it has contiguous to it a good free school, founded in 1603, likewise an almshouse. Above the town is Baron Hill, long the seat of the ancient and distinguished family of Bulkeley. The founder of this noble mansion was Sir Richard Bulkeley, who represented Anglesea in parliament in the 2d and 3d sessions of Mary, the 3d of Elizabeth, and the 1st of James. On a farm in this parish, called Lledwigan, lived Morys Lloyd, a man whose heroic bravery excited very considerable admiration in a former age. He was contemporary with the parliamentary wars, and is known to posterity under the appellation of the Lledwigan Thresher. Many of the republican soldiers, who had been exclaiming against the oppression of the throne, became themselves the worst tyrants, and traversed the country in powerful bands, committing various acts of robbery and cruelty, particularly on those whose loyalty was known. A party of this description, consisting, according to tradition, of thirty men, arrived at Lledwigan, and required the occupier, Morys Lloyd, who was threshing in his barn, to surrender to them a large sum of money or his life. He immediately replied that he would not yield the one without the other, and having partially closed the door of his barn, attacked them with his flail, as they successively attempted to enter. Eight or ten of them fell in this unequal contest, which would probably have been maintained a much longer time if the thongs, which connected together the two parts of the flail, had not been broken by accident or cut asunder by the swords of the assailants. Then, indeed, the superiority of number and offensive weapons acquired their natural ascendant, and it is unnecessary to relate the sequel. This act of heroism is briefly recorded in the inscription on a tomb-stone in the church of Ceirig Ceinwen, where it has been placed by the present respectable tenant of Lledwigan, Mr. John Williams, who rescued the memorial from the oblivion to which it had otherwise been consigned by the miserable parsimony of the churchwardens.

About

About one mile from Beaumaris, near the shore, is Llanfaes Abbey, founded by Llewelyn ap Iorwerth, on the supposed spot where a battle was fought between the Saxons and the Welsh about the year 818. It is probable it was fought between Egbert, King of the West Saxons, and the Welsh, and that it was a most bloody one may be supposed from the expression of Caradog of Llancarvan, who styles it "the sore battle of Llanfaes." This abbey was founded in honour of Llewelyn's wife, Joan, natural daughter of King John of England, by a lady of the noble house of Ferrers, who, at her own request, was buried here in the year 1237. A stone coffin, thought to be her's, was a few years ago used as a watering trough for cattle, at a farm called Friars, on the coast one mile north of the town, and had been so used for a space of 250 years. The late Viscount Bulkeley rescued it from its undeserving situation, and placed it in a small gothic building in the park at Baron Hill. The few remains of this abbey form at present part of the walls to a barn. The church was dedicated to St. Francis, but was, with the other buildings, destroyed soon after the death of Llewelyn, in an insurrection headed by his relation, Madoc; it was soon after restored, and again nearly ruined by Henry IV. in consequence of an insurrection against him by Owen Glyndwr. At different times there were interred in this church the son of a Danish king, Lord Clifford, and numerous barons and knights who fell in the Welsh wars. Here were also deposited the remains of Gruffydd Grŷg, an eminent poet of this island, who flourished from about 1330 to 1370. He was the able opponent of the British Ovid, Davydd ap Gwilym, as appears from Gruffydd's monody, written by his generous rival. At the dissolution of monasteries, Henry VIII. sold Llanfaes Abbey, with Cremlyn Monach, to one of his courtiers. The family of White, now extinct, afterwards became possessed of it, and built a respectable house, since enlarged and improved as well as modernized, as were also the grounds, by Sir Robert Williams, Bart.

Two miles to the north of Llanfaes Abbey is Penmon, "the Head or Extremity of Mona," called also Glenarch, a priory of Black Monks, founded or richly endowed by Llewelyn ap Iorwerth about the year 1221, and at its dissolution in the reign of King Henry VIII. was valued at £40. 7s. 9d. and granted (6th Elizabeth) to John More. A former edifice here is recorded to have been burnt by the Danes in 971. At present Penmon consists of little more than a ruinous refectory and a part of the church, dedicated to Seiriol, a saint who lived in the beginning of the sixth century. According to Tanner, the priory was dedicated to Saint Mary; but the author of the *History of Anglesea* says that its founder was Maelgwyn Gwynedd. In this neighbourhood are some large quarries of mill-stones. Near Penmon is a well surrounded by a wall and stone seats, with two spaces or places of entrance. Penmon Park originally belonged to the

the priory, but is now attached to the Bulkeley estates. It is surrounded by a very lofty stone wall, and is stocked with red deer.

About a mile from Penmon stands a small square fort, with the remains of a little round tower at each corner; in the middle there was a square tower, the whole being surrounded by a foss. A hollow way is carried quite to the shore, and at its extremity is a large mound of earth, intended to cover the landing. This place, which is called Castell Aber Llienawg, was founded by Hugh Lupus, Earl of Chester, and Hugh the Red, Earl of Shrewsbury, in the year 1098. The fort was garrisoned so lately as the time of Charles the First, when it was kept for the parliament by Sir Thomas Cheadle, but it was taken by Colonel Robinson about the year 1645 or 1646.

On leaving Beaumaris in a westerly direction, at the distance of five miles is Llanedwin, a chapelry to the vicarage of Llanidan, in which parish is situate Plâs Gwyn, the seat of the late Paul Panton, Esq. a character distinguished for his acquaintance with the history and antiquities of his native country, and who left behind him a valuable collection of Welsh Manuscripts. He died in 1797, in the 69th year of his age.

Plâs Newydd, the seat of the Marquis of Anglesey, lies close upon the water, protected on three sides by venerable oaks and ash. The view up and down this magnificent strait is extremely fine. The shores are rocky, those on the opposite side are covered with woods, and beyond soar a long range of Snowdonian Alps. In the woods are some remarkable druidical antiquities. Behind the house are to be seen two vast cromlechs: the upper stone of one is 12 feet 7 inches long, 12 feet broad, and 4 feet thick, supported by five tall stones; the other is but barely separated from the first, is almost a square of five feet and a half, and is supported by four stones. The numbers of supporters to cromlechs are merely accidental, and depend on the size and form of the incumbent stone. These are the most magnificent we have, and the highest from the ground, for a middle-sized horse may easily pass under the largest. Not far from the cromlech is a large carnedd: part has been removed, and within was discovered a cell, about seven feet long and three wide, covered at top with two flat stones, and lined on the sides with others.

About two miles to the south of Plâs Gwyn is Pen-Mynydd, having its church dedicated to Gredivel, son of Ithel, a saint who lived about the close of the fifth century. This place is chiefly remarkable for being the birthplace of Owen Tudor, the great ancestor of a line of English monarchs, who, according to Gray's bard, restored the sceptre of England to the Welsh, the original possessors. This Owen Tudor married Catherine, dowager of Henry the Fifth, but fighting against Edward the Sixth in the battle of Mortimer's Cross, he was taken and beheaded, and afterwards buried in the Grey Friars at Hereford. Part of his houseway, with the gateway and chimney-piece,

piece, still remain in a farm-house, also some specimens of coats of arms and escutcheons. The family of Tudor became extinct in Richmond Tudor, who died in the year 1657, and the estates belong to the Bulkeley family. In this church is one of their monuments, removed here from Llanfaes Abbey at its dissolution.

At the distance of fourteen miles we pass through the village of Bodedeyrn. The name implies "the Habitation of Edeyrn," a bard who flourished about the middle of the seventh century, and who embraced a religious life, and had a church here. There are two cromlechs, about a mile east of the church, which are in good preservation.

One mile and a quarter beyond this place is the small village of Llanyngenedl, where the road divides; and if the tide be out, there is a road across the sands, otherwise, by turning to the left, we arrive at

HOLYHEAD,

or Caer-Gybi, "the Castle of Kybi," situate at the extreme point of Anglesea. There are the remains of three chapels in this parish, namely, Capel Lochwyd, Capel y Towyn, and Capel Gwyngenon; they are said to have been Roman Catholic chapels of no great note. —About a mile to the south-east of Holyhead, on a farm called Tre'r-ddwr, are the remains of a cromlech in rather a perfect state; and there is a large vein of white fuller's earth, and another of yellow, on the north side of Holyhead mountain, close to the sea, which are supposed to be of as good quality as any in Great Britain. The church of Holyhead is a handsome embattled cruciform structure, consisting of a chancel, nave, aisles, and transept, with a square tower, surmounted by a low flat kind of spire. The present edifice, exclusive of the chancel, appears to have been erected about the time of Edward III. The inside of the entrance porch, and the external part of the south end of the transept, are decorated with rude carvings. On the pediments and battlements are cherubic heads; and on one two figures in a supplicating posture, with the inscription in Gothic characters—"Sancte Kybi ora pro nobis." Cybi (says Mr. Lewis) lived at the time of the dissolution of the Roman empire in Britain, and was contemporary and in great friendship with Saint Seiriol. "Saint Kebius, who flourished about A. D. 380, founded a monastery here, and in after-times there was founded, in the royal free chapel in the castle of this place, a college of prebendaries, whose yearly revenue was valued (26th Henry VIII.) at £24, as stated by Dugdale and Speed. This college was granted (7th James I.) to Francis Morrice and Francis Phillips." The head of the institution, formerly one of the three spiritual lords of Anglesea, was usually denominated Penlas or Pencolas, which some consider to have been Pencais,

Pencais, or chief judge in ecclesiastical matters; but by the inscription on the exergue of the ancient seal belonging to the chapter, "Sigillum Rectoris et capitali Ecclesia de Caer Gybi," it appears that his customary title was that of Rector: he was styled, in a subsequent period, Provost. The estimate made in the time of Henry the Eighth of its annual revenues, as amounting only to £24, must have been an under-valuation. The great tythes of this college were transferred by Rice Gwynne, Esq. (in 1640) to Jesus College, Oxford, for the maintenance of two scholars and two fellows: and since that time the parish has been served by a curate nominated by the college. A school was established here in 1745, and the school house was built of materials taken from an ancient religious building called Capel Llan y Gwyddel, or "The Chapel of the Irishman." Serigi, a King of the Gwyddelians, invaded this country, and was here slain by Caswallon Llaw Hîr, or "Caswallon the Long-handed," who reigned about the year 390. Serigi was canonized by his countrymen, and had in this chapel a shrine, in high repute for many miracles. This place had distinct revenues from the collegiate church: at length it fell into ruin, and remained disused for ages. William Morris, an able Welsh critic, and collector of ancient Manuscripts, was collector of the salt duty and comptroller of the customs here: he died in 1764. The promontory, strictly called "The Head," is an immense precipice or huge mass of rocks, hollowed into most magnificent caves. One is peculiarly worth attention. It has received the vulgar appellation of the Parliament House, from the frequent visits of water parties to see this wonderful cavern; it being only accessible by boats, and that at half-ebb tide. It is one of those usual phenomena produced by the action of sea water upon the soluble parts of stratified rocks, more especially where calcareous substances are prevalent in their composition. Grand receding arches of different shapes, supported by pillars of rocks, exhibit such a magnificent scene as cannot fail to astonish the beholder unaccustomed to nature's bolder work. The promontory consists of high cliffs of various heights, abounding with large caverns, which afford shelter for innumerable birds, such as pigeons, gulls, razor-bills, ravens, guillemots, cormorants, shags, and herons. On the loftiest crag lurks the peregrine falcon, the bird in so high repute while falconry continued a fashionable amusement: the eggs of many of these birds are sought after as delicious food, and considered as a great treat to the epicure; the price procured for them is a sufficient inducement for the poor to follow the adventurous trade of egg-taking; but in this, as in the pearl fishery on the coasts of Persia, the gains bear no tolerable proportion to the danger incurred.—This dissevered member of Anglesea, which, from the number of pious persons interred, received the name of Holy Island, has had, subsequent to the bardic period, peculiar attention paid to it in a religious point of view. The foundations

foundations of Capel y Tywyn, Capel y Gorllau, Capel St. Ffraid, Capel Lochwyd, &c. &c. are still traceable among several other ruins, which are scattered about this holy promontory. The mound or tumulus, on which the remains of Capel y Tywyn stand, is evidently the cemetery of a vast number of persons. Another of the more remarkable antiquities, which are chiefly Roman, is Caer Twr, a circular building, ten feet in diameter, on the summit of the mountain called Pen Caer Cybi. Mr. Pennant says, it is strongly cemented with the same kind of mortar as the fort of the town; and he supposes it to have been a Roman pharos, or watch-tower. The precinct of the church-yard has been ascribed to Roman origin. The form is a parallelogram, about 220 feet long and 130 broad; three of the sides consist of massy walls, six feet thick and seventeen in height, the fourth is open to the harbour, having only a low parapet laid on the precipitous cliffs. At each angle is a circular bastion tower, and along the walls are two rows of round openings, or æillets, four inches in diameter, having the inside smoothly plastered. The cement, mixed with coarse pebbles, is extremely hard; and this, in conjunction with other circumstances, exhibits evident marks of Roman masonry. On the shore, just above high water, there is a well of very delicious water, called Ffynnon Lochwyd, situate about a quarter of a mile from Capel Lochwyd. The altar of Capel Lochwyd disappeared many years ago, and there is scarcely a vestige of the chapel left. Several coins of Constantine the Great, in a very perfect state, have lately been found near this place. The first modern improvement at Holyhead is the South Stack Light-House, built at the expense of the Corporation of the Trinity House, on an island from which it takes its name, situate on the south-west side of Holyhead mountain. This island cannot be approached by water, except in very moderate weather; the light-keepers are therefore supplied with a year's stock of oils and coals during the calm weather in summer, as it would be a laborious task, and be attended with great expense, to supply them with any thing that was not very portable by land communication. The way to the South Stack by land, three miles distant from Holyhead, is the mountain road as far as a farm called Glan-yr-Afon, which is kept in repair by the parish, and thence across the mountain to the heights directly opposite, a distance of about three quarters of a mile, an excellent road has been made, and is kept in repair at the expense of the Corporation of the Trinity House, who have also caused a zig-zag flight of steps (420 in number) to be quarried in the side of the mountain, so as to afford an easy ascent to the nearest part of the rock on a level with the island. From this point a bridge constructed of ropes is thrown across the passage that separates the South Stack from the mountain. The distance is about 100 feet, and from the bridge to the water it is about 60 feet. The

The view from the bridge is rather terrific; but it seldom happens that it becomes an obstacle in the way of those who wish to visit the light-house. The first stone of Holyhead Pier was laid in the month of August, 1810: it extends into the sea about 360 yards.

On the 6th of August, 1821, King George IV. landed at Holyhead, on his passage to Ireland, an event which forms an epoch in the history of the principality, and of Anglesea in particular, upwards of six centuries having previously elapsed since a British monarch was seen in Wales. His Majesty was received on the pier by Sir John Thomas Stanley, Bart. who read and presented to him a brief address, congratulating him on his safe arrival within the harbour, and expressive of the heartfelt joy of the inhabitants at beholding their gracious and beloved Sovereign in the midst of them. On receiving this address, his Majesty said that his heart was indeed warmed in witnessing such a display of loyalty and affection in a country which was, and always would be, dear to him, and of which he had borne the title of Prince for the greatest period of his life. After remaining a short time on the pier, his Majesty and suite proceeded in three of the Marquis of Anglesea's carriages to Plâs Newydd, which seat they reached about six o'clock. On the following (Wednesday) morning deputations arrived from the corporations and other public bodies of Anglesea and Caernarvonshire, to present loyal addresses to the king. His Majesty received them in the grand saloon, in the subjoined order: from the Bishop and Clergy of the Diocese of Bangor; the High Sheriff and Gentlemen of the county of Caernarvon; the Mayor, Bailiffs, and Burgesses of the borough of Beaumaris; the Mayor, Bailiffs, and Burgesses of the borough of Caernarvon; and from the body of Calvinistic Methodists. On this occasion I. Huddart, Esq. the High Sheriff of Caernarvonshire, received the honour of knighthood. His Majesty returned to Holyhead about four o'clock in the afternoon, and was received at the entrance of the town with similar attention and respect as were evinced on his landing, and he was conducted to his barge amidst the reiterated cheers of a vast concourse of people. The squadron immediately manned their yards, royal salutes were fired, and the town was illuminated. The squadron was detained in the bay by contrary winds until Sunday, when, about five o'clock in the afternoon, the king took his final departure, and proceeded to the shores of Ireland. Such an event was not likely to be passed over without some display. Accordingly a public meeting was held on the 9th of August, and a general subscription was resolved to be entered into for the purpose of erecting a triumphal arch, commemorative of the landing of his Majesty, on or near to the scite of the temporary erection of the same name: a committee was formed; and on Wednesday, the 7th of August, 1822, the anniversary of the royal landing, the committee met at the Custom-house, when, the secretary having informed the gentlemen of the committee that

every

every thing was in readiness for immediately laying the first stone, they forthwith proceeded to the pier, where the stone was laid with every circumstance which was calculated to produce an impressive effect. This elegant monument of loyalty was finished and publicly opened on Friday, the 6th day of August, 1824. It is entirely of marble, is of the Doric order, and is composed of four handsome pillars, twenty feet high, which are placed two on each side of a carriage-way fourteen feet wide, and separate from each other five or six inches. Outside of the pillars, and of the same height, are two rectangular pillars, twelve feet by three feet six inches, leaving a footpath on each side of the carriage-way of five feet. The whole is surmounted with a bold projecting cornice, and covered over with three tiers of stone, which recede from the front of the cornice all round, in the form of steps. There are two entablatures; one on the east and the other on the west side, the former bearing a suitable inscription.

On leaving Beaumaris in a north-west direction, at the distance of fifteen miles, is Llannerch-y-medd, a considerable market town. Between this town and Amlwch, which is situated about six miles to the north, are several ridges of the green asbestine slate; the road runs also along a ridge of aggregate rock, containing quartz, iron, foliated magnesia, and clay; to this succeed brechaias and lime, in a clay cement; then several ranges (stretching to the coast) of limestone and breccia. In most of these the pebbles inclosed in the calcareous cement are of quartz alone, a circumstance not easily accounted for. The whole of this country bears evident marks of having been under water; indeed the rocks themselves afford ample proof of the action of water on their surfaces, as do also the upper stratum of the soil, being commonly full of shells and other marine exuvia. From hence may be discovered the green asbestine rock, terminating Anglesea at Bangor Ferry.

Amlwch was formerly a small hamlet containing only six houses, which were occupied by fishermen. In the short space of 160 years the number of births in this parish gradually increased from 13 to 199 per annum, which can only be ascribed to the influx of miners, smelters, &c. to the Parys copper mines. It is also observable that there is a great superiority in the number of births to that of burials, which is certainly an indication of the sobriety and regular living of the inhabitants, notwithstanding their apparently unhealthy occupations. The church, consecrated by Dr. Cleaver, Bishop of Bangor, in 1801, is an elegant building, erected by the Parys Mine Company at the expense of £4000. It is dedicated to Elaeth, a royal bard and saint, who flourished from about A. D. 640 to 700. There is one of his compositions in the Myvyrian or Welsh Archaiology. Amlwch is a perpetual curacy. There is only one chapel of ease annexed to the curacy; it is called Llan Gwynllwyvo, where service is performed

performed once in a fortnight: there were formerly two others, but they have been in ruins many years. Of one of these, the foundation of the church and part of the churchyard wall are still to be seen. It was called Llan Lleianan, or "the Cell of the Nuns," situate about four miles west of Amlwch, near Llan Badrig, near a place called City Dulas, and about the same distance from Llangadog. From the operation of the copper mines of the Mynydd y Tresclwyn, or "Hill of Copper," as the Parys mountain was anciently called, Amlwch derived its prosperity. The present name of the mountain is said to have been taken from that of Robert Parys, or Paris, Chamberlain of North Wales. There is a Robert Paris the younger named as a commissioner in an Inquisition in the 8th year of Henry IV. to fine the Anglesea insurgents in the cause of Owen Glyndwr. The precipitation of copper by means of iron, from its solution in waters acidulated with sulphuric acid, or rather from that acid diluted with water, has long been known, and was formerly considered as the actual transmutation of iron into copper. Hutchinson speaks of this transmutation having been attempted as early as 1571, in Dorsetshire; but though the process was simple, it does not appear that for some years any experiment satisfactorily succeeded in the Parys Mine. In 1579, the Society for the Mineral and Battery Works, at the instance of Lord Burleigh, their President, employed Mr. Medley for this purpose; and in some measure succeeded, but not sufficiently, it seems, from the event, to be encouraged with a commercial view. The process for procuring copper in this way at the Herrngrundt mines, near Newsol, in Hungary, where the water, however, is more strongly impregnated, was published in 1673 by Dr. Brown, in his Travels. Notwithstanding the light which in various quarters was thrown on the subject, the immense treasure in the Parys mountain lay neglected until the year 1762, when Fraser, a Scotch miner, came in search of ores, and gave encouragement to other adventurers. Though he discovered copper ore by sinking shafts in the mountain, he was prevented from proceeding by the influx of water. Sir Nicholas Bayley, who had leased the lead mines at Penrhyn-dû, in Carnarvonshire, to the Macclesfield Company, bound them to make a spirited effort to work the Parys mine. This they did, but with so little encouragement, that after some time they sent positive orders to the agent to discontinue his operations, and discharge the miners. The agent, however, fortunately disobeyed his injunctions, and, as at the last attempt, collected all his mining force to one spot, where he sunk, and within seven feet of the surface discovered the body of ore, which was worked with great success for many years. This happened on the 2d day of March, 1768, whence Saint Chad has ever since been the patron of the Anglesea mines. The Marquis of Anglesea succeeded his father, the late Lord Uxbridge, in the possession of one portion of these copper mines; and Lord Dinorben is the other principal proprietor.

About

About two miles to the east of Amlwch, near the coast, is Llanelian. Here is a small well called Ffynnon Elian, or Saint Elian's Well, which was formerly in great repute; the water is tasteless but good; but it is not believed to possess any medicinal virtue. It is situate on the Irish sea. The chapel of Bôd-Ewryd has been detached from this rectory, and erected into a perpetual curacy, for which Queen Anne's bounty was procured. There stands, within four yards of the church, a small chapel, which has been joined by a passage to the chancel of the church. It appears to have been built first as a cloister for the saint, and must have had a small bell, as there is a place for one: it is called the Myfyr, or "Place of Meditation." The church of Llanelian is a handsome edifice, strongly built of grit stone; the corners of red free stone, covered with lead, and supported by massy timbers of oak; it has a spire, with a belfry containing three bells. It was formerly highly ornamented with paintings of the portraits of the saint and the apostles, but they are now almost destroyed, except that of the saint. In the east window are some small remains of stained glass. In the Myfyr or cloister, before-mentioned, there exists a small relic of superstition: this is an oaken box fixed to the wall; it is semicircular, about six feet long, three feet wide, and four feet high, with a door or hole a foot broad and almost three feet high. During the wake, commonly called Gwyl Mab Saint, which is holden in the month of August, the people pass respectively into this box, and should they get in and out with ease, having turned round in it three times, they believe they will live out the year; but otherwise they assuredly die. It is pretended, that while some bulky folks have got in and out easily, other slender ones have found the greatest difficulty, so that sometimes the box has been removed from the wall. In the church is the Cuff Elian, a large chest in form of a trunk, round on the top and studded with iron nails, with an aperture to put in alms. All who bathed in the well made their offerings into the Cuff, otherwise they were not to hope for any benefit from it. The amount so received was formerly very great: people used to come from all the counties of North Wales. It is opened only once a year, namely, on Saint Thomas's Day. The original church was built by Llan-Elian, the patron saint, about the year 450: he was denominated Cannaid, or "The Bright," and is the British Hilary. Caswallon Llaw Hîr, or "The Long-armed," endowed the church with many privileges, and franchises, and lands, that were holden in his name by the freeholders. But the saint has been deprived of all, except one tenement of about £20 per annum, and even the rent of this farm has been for some years past perverted, to ease the parishioners of the poor-rates, instead of expending it on the repairs of the church. At the distance of about eight miles from Amlwch, at Camlyn Bay, are some excellent marble quarries.

Aberffraw is a small village situate on the south-west part of the island,

island, near the Irish Sea. The town is noted in history for being once a chief seat of the Princes of North Wales, and where one of the three courts of justice for the principality were holden. In its palace was kept a copy of the celebrated code of laws founded by Howel Dda, in the year 940, for the better government of Wales, of which two transcripts were made for the use of the public and the distribution of justice. The last prince who lived here was Llywelyn ap Gruffydd, who was killed at Fishguard, in South Wales, upwards of 500 years ago. There are no vestiges of his palace; but there is a garden at the south-west end of the town, called Gardd y Llŷs, or "the Palace Garden." The Eisteddvod, or Triennial Meeting of the Bards, was holden here in the reigns of its ancient princes. The ruinated church, called Eglwys y Baili, or "the Bailiff's Church," was rebuilt by Sir Arthur Owen, Bart. in the year 1729, for a school, which he endowed with four pounds per annum, for teaching six poor children in the Welsh language. Near this place are found the amulets called by some Gleiniau Nadroedd, or Adder Stones, and by others called Glain Naidr, or Druid Glass Rings; they are supposed to have been manufactured by the Romans, and given in exchange to the superstitious Britons in commerce. At present they are considered as excellent remedies for a cough and ague; and that they assist children in cutting their teeth will scarcely be doubted. The vulgar opinion is, that they are produced by snakes joining their heads together and hissing, which forms a kind of bubble like a ring on the head of one of them, which the rest by continual hissing blow on till it comes off at the tail, after which it immediately hardens, and resembles a glass ring. It is a common tradition, that whoever finds one of these will prosper in all their undertakings. Mr. Pennant says, "this wondrous ring seems to be nothing more than a bead of glass, used by the Druids as a charm to impose on the vulgar." In the vicinity of Aberffraw is the small lake of Llyn Coron, abounding with several fish, which induce numbers to frequent it in the summer season for the amusement of angling.

At the distance of about seven miles to the north-west of Aberffraw we pass through the town of Newborough. The British name was Rhos Vair, and here was a Llŷs, or Royal Palace of the Princes of North Wales, who occasionally retired here. Edward the First erected the town into a corporation, a circumstance which, it is said, gave rise to its English name; he also granted a guild mercatory, with other privileges, which were confirmed by parliament in the first year of Edward the Third. In the third year of Henry the Eighth it returned a member to parliament, and again in the first of Edward the Sixth, who transferred the elective franchise to Beaumaris in the following year. "The glory of Newborough (says Mr. Pennant) is now passed away." By virtue of its ancient charter the town is still governed by a mayor, two bailiffs, and a recorder, with other assistant officers,

officers, who keep regular courts here. The palace and chapel were both in existence in the reign of Edward the Third, as appears from an Inquisition taken in 1329 before William de Shaldeford, the representative of Richard Earl of Arundel, the Justiciary of North Wales. In the latter part of that reign were found ninety-three houses, thirteen gardens, one orchard, twelve crofts, and sixty small pieces of ground enclosed for the use of the houses. The crown had its steward for this district, with a salary of £10 a year. It now subsists by the manufacture of hats, nets, and cordage, which latter, from their being composed of a species of sea-red grass, are called rhosir-morhesg ropes, a plant, of which Queen Elizabeth, in tenderness to such of her subjects who lived on sandy shores, wisely prohibited the extirpation, in order to prevent the misfortunes which have since happened, of having half the parish buried in the unstable sands by the rage of tempests. In the vicinity of what has been considered the domestic chapel to the royal palace at Frondêg, there is an upright stone bearing a commemorative inscription, which is now illegible, but which Mr. Pennant judged to have been set up for some Danish chieftain.—Newborough is celebrated in Wales for being the residence and birthplace of John Morgan, an old blind musician, who was among the last that played on the ancient instrument called the Crwth, the original of our present violin.

Two miles north-west of Newborough is Llan Gadwallader or Eglwys Ael.—The church is dedicated to Saint Cadwaladyr, the last nominal King of the Britons; according to Mr. Owen he was called one of the three blessed kings on account of the protection and support afforded by him to the fugitive christians, who were dispossessed by the Saxons; he died in 703, and with him the title of King of the Britons ceased. The church is a small edifice, with two chapels, forming a cross with the body of the church: one of them belonging to the Bôdorgan family; and the other to that of Bôd-Owen, both of this parish; this church is said to have been originally founded by Cadwaladyr, who appointed it for one of the sanctuaries of the island; the stone mentioned by Camden and Rowlands, which has given a value to the church in the eyes of the antiquarians, still remains, forming the lintel of the southern door-way, and has the inscribed face downwards. The stone is supposed by the learned Edward Llwyd, author of the *Archeologia Britannica*, to be only a fragment. Some conjecture that it is a portion of the monument of Cadvan, the grandfather of the founder, who was interred here, and not, as is generally stated, in the island of Bardsey. Mr. Llwyd says, that it is dated 607, and supposes its mutilated inscription to refer to Cadvan, the son of Iago, who was Prince of North Wales at that period. Bôdorgan, in this parish, was the residence of Edmund Putland Meyrick, Esq. who was supposed to have been one of the richest commoners in the kingdom, having, at the time of his death, about three

three hundred thousand pounds in the funds, besides a very large landed property in England and Wales; he left a widow and two daughters, co-heiresses. Bôd-Owen was the seat of the ancestors of the Owens, Baronets, of Orielton, in Pembrokeshire.

About three miles to the north-east of Newborough, on the right of the road, is Llanedwen, a chapelry to the vicarage of Llanidan. The church, which was built in the year 640, is dedicated to Saint Edwen; it is situate on the straits of the Menai. Llan-Edwen is notable as having given birth to the learned antiquary, the Rev. Henry Rowlands: he was born in 1655, bred at Oxford, and was instituted to the vicarage of Llanidan with the annexed chapels, in October, 1690; died in the year 1723, and was interred in the south part of the church. His principal work, *Mona Antiqua Restaurata,* is too well known to be more particularly noticed in this place.

In the parish of Llanallgov is a small spring, which was formerly held in great esteem. In a farm called Llûgwy, in the adjoining parish of Llaneigrad, are the ruins of an old chapel, which belong to the parish church, and which is still known by the name of Capel Llûgwy.

Llanbabo.—This parish is situate five miles north-west of Llanerchymedd. Pabo Pôst Prydain, or "Pabo the pillar of Britain," so called for his having been a great support to the Britons against the Picts and Scots, about the year 460, founded a church here. "There was an ancient tradition," says Mr. Lewis Morris, "in the parish of Llanbabo, in Anglesey, that Pabo, with his son and daughter, was buried in that churchyard, opposite to certain faces that were carved in a wall, and to be seen to this day. In King Charles the Second's time, or thereabouts, the sexton happening to dig a grave against one of the carved faces, at about six or seven inches deep, found a flat grave stone, one corner of which he picked, and demolished a few letters before he knew what it was; the stone was then removed into the quire, where it hath remained ever since. It hath on it the figure of a man in long robes with a coronet on his head and a sceptre in his hand, with a long beard, and a Latin inscription neatly cut,—basso-relievo-wise; on one edge of the stone are these letters—"Hic jacet Pabo" &c. His tomb still remains, with an inscription round his effigy. Near Llanbabo are two cromlechau.

Llanddwynwen.—The church, which is now in ruins, is dedicated to Saint Dwynwen, who lived about the middle of the fifth century: it was a very fine building, and great part of the walls are still standing on a peninsula, which is somewhat more than half a mile in length. Near it are the remains of the prebendal house, which is remarkable as having been the residence of Richard Kyffin, the last rector, and afterwards Dean of Bangor, known by the name of *Y Deon du,* or "the black dean," who, according to Mr. Pennant, was a strenuous friend to the House of Lancaster, and here concerted with Sir

Sir Rhŷs ap Thomas, and other Welsh chieftains, a plan for bringing in the Duke of Richmond, then in Britanny, to whom they transmitted, by means of fishing vessels, all necessary intelligence. The whole parish, which is frontier to Newborough towards the sea, and forms a kind of peninsula, is covered with sand hills, the driftings from these, during the prevalence of strong westerly winds, fleeting over the adjacent lands, form a sad annoyance to the neighbourhood, which, in consequence thereof, is quite barren; there is not at present any house near the church. In the time of Edward the Third there were, on this peninsula, no more than eight small houses: yet, in the reign of Henry the Eighth, it was one of the richest prebends in the diocese of Bangor. Amidst the sandy flat, surrounded by rocks, near the shore, was an oratory of Saint Dwynwen, the daughter of Brychan Urth, one of the holy colidei or primitive christians of Britain, who lived in the fifth century; as the British Venus or tutelary saint of lovers, the votaries of Dwynwen were numerous. A church having been built on the spot, a shrine erected to her memory was attended by multitudes of devotees in the ages of superstition; and the religious, who, from this circumstance, were induced to take up their secluded residence here, made no small gains from the pious ignorance of the people. The patroness of amatorial connections was profusely supplied with votive offerings by those who required her mediation. Here subsequently is said to have been an abbey founded for Benedictine monks, though it was probably only a cell of a very small chapter of canons. According to Mr. Rowlands, in his *Mona Antiqua*, the clergy who resided here were not paid in tithes; but were supported, in popish times, by the contributions of the credulous, who resorted thither to learn their future destiny from the monks, which they foretold from the leaping of the fish, and by the appearance of the holy well, called at this day Ffynnon Fair, *i. e.* "Saint Mary's well." According to Mr. Carlisle, the ruins of two houses are still visible, one called Tŷ'r Parson, *i. e.* "the parson's house," and the other Tŷ'r Clochydd, *i. e.* "the sexton's house:" there is a tradition that the peninsula before alluded to extended much further into the sea. In the time of Owain Glyndwr the treasury belonging to the shrine of Dwynwen excited the cupidity of one Iorwerth Vychan, rector of Llanddoged, who made pretensions to the offerings, and sacrilegiously seized on them: but Gruffydd le Yonge, chancellor to the Welsh hero, interfered, and by a decree put a stop to the invasion of the rights of the place. There is an abundance of fish, lobsters, crabs, &c. on this coast.

Llan-dyfrydog, or Llan-dyvrydog.—The church was dedicated to Saint Tyfrydog, who lived in the latter part of the sixth century. Upon Clorach farm there is an upright stone, with a large protuberance on one side of it, called Lleidr Ty Dyfridog, *i. e.* "The Tyfrydog Thief," concerning which there is a tradition that a man who had sacrilegiously stolen a church bible, and was carrying it away

away on his shoulders, was for his transgression converted into this stone. There are also two wells on this farm, one on each side of the road leading to Llannerch-y-mêdd, and exactly opposite to each other, remarkable, not for their medicinal virtues, but as having been, according to tradition, where Saint Seiriol and Saint Kybi (the former the patron of Ynys Seiriol, and the latter of Caer Kybi or Holyhead,) used to meet midway between both places, to talk over the religious affairs of the country. The wells are to this day called Ffynnon Seiriol, and Ffynnon Kybi, *i. e.* "Seiriol's Well," and "Kybi's Well."

Llandysilio.—The church, supposed to have been first founded here about the year 630, is dedicated to Saint Tysilio. It is singularly situated on a barren rock, forming a little peninsula, about a quarter of a mile to the west of Porthaethwy. Near here, on the Anglesea shore, is a rock known by the name of Carreg-Iago, or rather Carreg-yr-Iacon, or Arch-Iacon, "the Archdeacon's Stone," rendered memorable on account of Archbishop Baldwin's having stood up to preach the crusade upon it at the time of his peregrinations for that purpose through Wales in 1188; when Alexander, Archdeacon of Bangor, is stated to have interpreted Baldwin's oration to the people. On a farm called Ralt are extensive ruins of an encampment, said to have been Roman: they are situate on a high bank, a short distance from the great turnpike road from London to Holyhead. An instance of a lord selling his vassals and their offspring occurred at Porthaethwy many years after the reign of the Princes of North Wales, but the deed of sale is not extant.

Llaneigrad.—The church is dedicated to Saint Eigrad, and is supposed to have been first built about the year 605. All the springs here arise from limestone rock, and the water, as the inhabitants suppose, breeds a distemper among their cattle which they call damp. It seizes them in their joints, and they become very lean and lank. The parish is situate on the Irish sea. Here are the remains of an old chapel, called Capel Llugwy.

Llanenghenedl.—The church is supposed to have been built about the year 620, and is dedicated to Saint Enghenedl, the grandson of Brochwell, who is recorded to have been the commander of the British forces under Cadvan in the memorable battle of Chester in 603, when they were defeated by Etheldred, King of Northumberland, and the monks of Bangor were massacred.

Llanvaelog.—The original church is supposed to have been built about the year 605, and dedicated to Saint Maelog, who lived in the middle of the sixth century. It is ten miles south-east from Holyhead, and is situate on the Bay of Carnarvon, in which abundance of soles and turbots are caught in the summer. On a farm called Ty Newydd is a cromlech, the upper stone of which is 12 feet long.

Llan-faethlû, or Llan-vaethlû.—The mansion house of the ancient and

and respectable family of Griffith of Carreg Llwyd (descended from Ednyfed Vychan, whose arms they bear,) is situate in this parish. It appears by several pedigrees that George Griffith, Bishop of Saint Asaph, was a younger brother to William Griffith, of Carreg Llwyd, LL. D. Chancellor of Bangor and Saint Asaph, and one of the Masters of the High Court of Chancery, who married Mary, the daughter of John Owen, Bishop of Saint Asaph, from whom is descended Holland Griffith, Esq. the present proprietor of Carreg Llwyd. The said William Griffith died in 1648, aged 49, and Mary his wife died in 1645, aged 31.—The learned John Davydd Rhŷs, M. D. author of the *Welsh Grammar* published in London in 1590, was, according to tradition, born in this parish, and was son to the parish clerk thereof.

Llanvair in Mathavarn Eithav.—The chapel is dedicated to Saint Mary. A great number of mill-stones of a very fine kind are dug up on a common at a place called Rhôs Vawr. There is a cromlech at Marian Pant ŷ Saer, and formerly there was one at Llech tal Môn, but it is now demolished. In the churchyard is a modern carnedd, composed of a rude heap of stones, five feet in height, twelve wide, and eighteen long. Beneath the heap is a hollow cavern, the entrance guarded, according to the ancient Jewish and British customs, by a large stone. This whimsical sepulchre was erected by a Mr. Wynne, and has long been the place of interment for the family.—Near the millstone quarries is a small cottage, in which Goronw Owain, M. A. one of the most eminent and learned of the Welsh bards, was born on the 1st of January, 1722. He was educated at the free school at Bangor, from whence he removed to Jesus College, Oxford, at the sole expense of Dr. Edward Wynne, of Bôd Ewryd, in this county, and after being worn out with unavailing expectations of obtaining some small preferment in his native country, he removed to Williamsburg, in Virginia, of which church he was appointed a minister; and thus was the fairest flower of British genius transplanted to wither in the ungenial climes of America. His poetical works were printed, with other productions, in a volume under the name of *Diddanwch Teuluaidd*, which is now become very scarce.

In the parish of Llanvair Pwll Gwyn Gyll, on a rocky eminence near the shore, is the site of an ancient British fortification called Craig y Dinas, opposite to which, in the straits, are those terrible rocks called by English sailors The Swelly, but known to the Welsh as Pwll Ceris, "a name," says Mr. Morris, in his Survey, "borrowed, it is likely, from the Roman Charybdis, such another dangerous place on the coast of Sicily."

In the parish of Llanvair yn Nghornwy, upon the farm of Caerau, is found the native fossil stone called asbestos, remarkable for greater or less degree of flexibility, and being incombustible. About a mile from the village is one of the ancient monuments called Meini Hirion.

It

It is a large equilateral triangle, formed of three huge stones placed upright at a distance of five hundred yards from each other. Two circular encampments, with a fosse and vallum, denominated Castell Crwn, are in the vicinity of this monument.

In the parish of Llanvechell is a mineral spring, near the domain of Cefn Coch, which has effected some cures of lameness, but it is not known beyond the parish, and near it is a fallen cromlech. Here is also a very fine quarry of curious and beautiful marble; its variegated colours are black, dull purple, various shades of green, and sometimes intersected with white asbestine veins. From this quarry, which some years ago was purchased for £1000, blocks of a large size are procured, which are susceptible of a high polish; they are cut into slabs, and formed into chimney pieces, side-boards, and sepulchral monuments.

In the parish of Llan-flewyn is a chapel which was built about the year 630, and dedicated to Saint Flewyn, who, with his brother Gredivel, first presided in the college founded about A. D. 480, by Pawl or Paulinus, on the river Tâv, in Caermarthenshire, which afterwards came to be called Ty Gwyn, or Whiteland Abbey. In this parish there was dug up some years ago three golden bracelets, and a bulla* of the same metal, in a high state of preservation. Two of the former were purchased by Mr. Pennant, as "curious memorials of the residence of the Romans in ancient Mona."

The parish church of Llanvihangel Tre'r Bardd is dedicated to Saint Michael; the name distinguishes it as having been anciently a Bardic or Druidic station, and as such several monuments are to be seen. Near the church is a large pillar, called Maen Addwyn, standing erect, and supposed to be one of those Meini Gwyr pillars mentioned by Mr. Rowlands in his *Mona Antiqua Restaurata*, p. 52. On Bodavon Hill is "the shapely cromlech" mentioned by the same respectable writer as thrown down, and lying on its three supporters in the lands of Blochty; the table stone measures ten feet in length by eight in breadth: its common name among the people is Y Maen Llwyd. Not far distant, at Barras, is a smaller one in ruins; and between these there is another demolished cromlech, called Carreg ŷ Frân, which was evidently a double one, and, when standing, very similar to the double cromlech at Plâs Newydd, in the parish of Llanidan.

Llanvihangel Tyn Sylwy hath its church dedicated to St. Michael; it stands immediately beneath a high precipitous hill, near Llanddona, called Bwrdd Arthur, or "Arthur's Round Table," on which are the remains of a great British fortification, denominated Tyn, or Tyn Sylwy, "the Exploratory Fort." It is surrounded by two lofty valla, formed of rude stones, and enclosing a deep fosse. In the area are the vestiges of oval buildings, of which the largest is formed with two

* An ornament worn by the Roman youth, as a kind of amulet.

two rows of flat stones set on end. These are supposed to have been temporary habitations of the occupants of the fortress. To an invading army this must have presented a considerable obstacle, since its natural situation, combined with its artificial defence, renders it almost impregnable. The hill slopes steeply on all sides, and, as an advanced post for watching the movements of the northern invaders who anciently ravaged the island, it was admirably situated. Near the shore are two round mounts in a deep gully, which appear to have been raised by the Danish pirates to protect their vessels when on a plundering expedition to this island.

Llanvihangel yn Nhywyn.—The name of this parish signifies Saint Michael's church, on the common near the sea. On the common there are vestiges of some primeval habitations, as noticed by Mr. Rowlands: nothing, however, appears at this time to be known of them. On the 10th of October is annually held, what is called Gwyl Mab Sant, but which of late years has degenerated into a meeting for hiring of servants.

Llan Gefni.—The church is dedicated to Saint Cyngan, a saint who founded many churches in Wales and flourished about the beginning of the sixth century. There is a chalybeate spring, formerly in great repute for rheumatic complaints, and which is still recommended by most medical men in this county. The name is derived from the British word Cafn, a hollow place or dingle, at the entrance of which is the church. The river Cefni flows through the parish. Tre Garnedd, a farm-house, was once the seat of Ednyfed Fychan, a chieftain of great power in Mona, in the beginning of the thirteenth century, and the able general and minister of Llywelyn the Great. and his arms were originally a saracen's head erased proper, wreathed or; but after defeating a powerful English army which invaded the frontiers of Wales, and killing with his own hand three of their principal commanders, whose heads, according to the barbarous practice of the times, he brought to Llywelyn, that prince, in commemoration of his services on this occasion, directed that he should bear gules, between three Englishmen's heads couped, a chevron ermine. Directly descended from this chieftain was the celebrated Sir Owen Tudor, or more properly Owain ap Meredydd ap Tudyr, the ancestor of Henry the Seventh, and collaterally of many illustrious families. The grandson of Ednyfed, the ill-fated Sir Gruffydd Llwyd, was born at this place. He was one of those who consented to acknowledge, as their legitimate sovereign, any person born in Wales who should be nominated to that rank by Edward the First, who conferred on him the honour of knighthood for bringing him the first intelligence of the birth of his son Edward at Caernarvon. He did homage to the young prince for his Welsh estates at Chester, but afterwards, indignant at some real or imaginary offence, and resenting the oppression under which his countrymen laboured, he meditated a

revolt.

revolt. With this view, between the years 1316 and 1318, he ineffectually attempted to form an alliance with Edward Bruce, the short-lived King of Scotland. Notwithstanding his want of success, his patriotism did not abate its energy, and he determined to raise the standard of freedom alone, and deliver his country from a slavery to which he had contributed. In 1322 he appeared in arms, and, aided by the two other insurrections under Madog and Owain Glyndwr, for some time overran the country with resistless impetuosity. At length he was defeated by the English, when he retreated to Tregarnedd, which he had strongly fortified, and garrisoned with his followers another stronghold in the morass of Malldraeth, about three quarters of a mile distant, called Ynys Cevni, which he insulated by bringing the water of that river around it: both are still remaining. Mr. Pennant conjectures "that he underwent the common fate of our gallant insurgents."

Llan-Geinwen hath its church dedicated to Saint Ceinwen. It is situate on the straits of Menai, opposite the town of Caernarvon. In this parish is Maes y Porth, formerly bestowed by Llewelyn ap Iorwerth, Prince of North Wales, as "Provision Land," on the abbey of Conwy. Here is also the ferry-house of Tal y Foel, between the island of Anglesea and the town of Caernarvon. On a farm in this parish, there was, a few years ago, a large stone pillar, probably one of those called by Mr. Rowlands Meini Gwyr, it was about twelve feet high, but, when the present farm-house was built, it was blasted, in order to make lintels for the doors and windows: the farm, from this pillar, is called Maen Hîr, or "the Long Pillar." The church is supposed to have been first built about the year 590.

Llangristiolus hath its church dedicated to Saint Cristiolus, a saint who lived in the middle of the seventh century, and it is supposed to have been built about the year 610. This was the birth-place of Dr. Henry Morris, who, in the seventeenth century, distinguished himself as a polemical writer: his father was curate of this parish, but gave his son a classical education: he died soon after being elected (in 1691) Margaret Professor of Divinity in Oxford. There is a cromlech at Henblâs in this parish. There is also an extensive waste in this parish, called Cors Degai. The name of this Cors or waste is spelt different ways, some making it Cors ŷ ddau cae, that is, "the Marsh of the Two Fields," but there is no ground for such a definition; others, again, Cors ddu cae, that is "the Black Deceitful (quaggy) Marsh: but Tegai, the founder of Llan Degai, near Bangor, built himself a cell in this marsh, the foundation of which is still visible, and it is now called Mynwent y Llwyn, or "the Churchyard of the Grove;" so that the whole marsh, probably from him, was called Cors Degai, or "Tegai's marsh." Here is free-stone for building, and at Llan-Ddwyn a green stone with red and white spots, which will bear a good polish. There is likewise here a ponderous ruddy spar, in great

great plenty, at a place called Llan-ginwen, whose specific gravity is 4.25, and which no doubt contains some metal.

Llangwyvan (the church dedicated to Saint Cwyfan, who lived about the close of the seventh century,) is situated at the extremity of the parish, and is frequently surrounded by the sea, which often rages violently here. Divine service is performed every other Sunday. When the sea surrounds the church, the congregation assembles in a house, part of which is consecrated. According to the terrier, each time the minister attends he may order hay for his horse, two eggs for his breakfast, a penny loaf, and half a pint of small beer, in lieu of tythe-hay of a farm called Plâs Gwyfan. The church is built like that of Aberffraw. Here is a quarry of white marble, which, as it bears a good polish, may be worth the attention of statuaries.

Llanidan.—The church is dedicated to Saint Idan, and was originally built in the year 616. Here is a seat of Lord Boston, finely situate on that arm of the sea commanding upwards a beautiful view of the town of Carnarvon and the Snowdon hills. The church once belonged to the convent of Bêdd Celert, and in 1535, it followed the fate of that house. Queen Elizabeth granted it to Edmund Dowman and Peter Ashton, who sold it (in 1605) to Richard Prytherch, of Mysyrian, whose daughter married a Llwyd of Llugwy: on the extinction of that family, all their estates were bought by Lord Uxbridge, who left them to his nephew, Sir William Irby, the late Lord Boston. Mr. Pennant says, "In the church is a reliquary, made neither of gold nor silver, nor yet ornamented with precious stones, but of very ordinary grit, with a roof-like cover.—I must not pass unnoticed the celebrated stone, called Maen Morddwyd, or "the Stone of the Thigh," now well secured in the wall of the church. In old times it was so constant to one place, that, let it be carried ever so far, it would be sure of returning at night. Hugh Lupus, Earl of Chester, determined to subdue its loco-motive faculties, fastened it with iron chains to a far greater-stone, and flung it into the sea; but, to the astonishment of all beholders, it was found next morning in its usual place. The Earl on this account issued a prohibition against it ever again being removed from its place. A simple countryman, however, fastened it to his thigh, which immediately putrified, and the stone exerted its loco-motive faculties by returning to its station. I now enter on classical ground, and the pious seats of the ancient Druids, the sacred groves, the altars, and monumental stones. At Tre'r Dryw, or "the Habitation of the Arch-Druid," I meet with the mutilated remains described by Mr. Rowlands. His Bryn Gwyn, or Royal tribunal, is a circular hollow of 180 feet in diameter, surrounded by an immense *agger* of earth and stones, evidently brought from some other place, there not being any mark of their being taken from the spot: it has only a single entrance. This is supposed to have

have been the grand consistory of the druidical administration. Not far from it was one of the gorseddau, now in a manner dispersed, but which once consisted of a great copped heap of stones, on which sate aloft a druid instructing the surrounding people. Here were also the reliques of a circle of stones, with the cromlech in the midst, but all extremely imperfect. Two of these stones are extremely large; one, which serves at present as part of the end of a house, is 12 feet 7 inches high and 8 feet broad, and another 11 feet high and 23 feet in girth: some lesser stones yet remain. This circle, when complete, was one of the temples of the Druids, in which their religious rites were performed. It is the conjecture of Mr. Rowlands, that the whole of these remains were surrounded with a circle of oaks, and formed a deep and sacred grove. Near this is Caer Lêb, or "the Moated Intrenchments," of a square form, with a double rampart, and broad ditch intervening, and a lesser on the outward side; within are foundations of circular and of square buildings. This Mr. Rowlands supposes to have been the residence of the Arch-Druid, and to have given the name Tre 'r Dryw to the township in which it stands. At Trêf Wry I saw several faint traces of circles of stones and other vestiges of buildings, all so dilapidated or high in weeds as to become almost formless. Bôd Drudan, or the habitation of the druids, Tre 'r Bardd, or that of the bards, and Bôd Owyr, or that of the priests, are all of them hamlets, nearly surrounding the seat of the chief druid, composing the essential part of his suite. At the last I saw a thick cromlech, resting on three stones. The shore near Porth Aml, not far from hence, is famed for being the place where Suetonius landed, and put an end in this island to the druidical reign. There are no traces of any Roman works left in this country; their stay was so short, that they had not time to form any thing permanent. At Bryn Gwydryn, behind Llanidan, are two or three dykes and fosses of a semicircular form, each end of which terminates at a precipice, leaving an intervening area of no great space. Both from its figure and name (Caer Idris) I suspect it to be British."

Llaniestyn is a chapel, dedicated to Saint Iestyn, "son of Geraint, (says Mr. Pennant,) a worthy Knight of Arthur's Round Table, slain by the Saxons at the siege of London; others say that he was slain, fighting under Arthur, in the battle of Llongborth, as is learnt from his elegy composed by Llywarch Hên." It is two miles north of Beaumaris. It is also attractive to antiquaries on account of its containing a tomb, which is nearly perfect, and of curious workmanship, supposed by some to be that of its tutelar Saint. The figure of a man is carved on the tomb, with his head covered with a hood or cowl, a large round beard, and whiskers on the upper and lower lip, his cassock is bound with a sash and a long cord, over which is a long cloak, fastened with a brooch. In one hand he holds a staff, with the head of some beast on the top; and in the other a scroll with an inscription,

inscription, on the decyphering of which antiquaries do not exactly agree.

Llansadwrn.—A fragment of a stone, with an inscription upon it, was found, a few years ago, in the church-yard, and is fixed within the church. There is also an uncouth head, projecting from the wall of this church, on the inside, supposed to be intended for Saturnius, the patron saint. At Trefor there is also a cromlech.

Llan Trisaint.—The church is dedicated to Saint Sanan, Saint Afran, and Saint Ieuan. It is an extremely plain building, but it contains an elegant monument to the memory of the Rev. Dr. Hugh Williams, who derived his descent from the British chieftain, Cadrod Hardd. He was an ancestor of the Wynnstay family.

Penrhôs Llŷgwy hath its church dedicated to Saint Mechell. It is situate near the Irish sea. Mechell or Macutus lived in the 7th century, and was made Bishop of Saint Maloes, in Little Britain. This church or cloister was called from his name Llan-fechell. He died, it seems, in the island of Anglesea, and was buried in his own church, called Penrhôs Llŷgwy, in whose church-yard there is an old-fashioned grave-stone, with an inscription, which, by the form of the letters, seems to be genuine. Lewis Morris, an eminent antiquary and poet, was born in this parish, according to Mr. Owen, in the year 1702, and died on the 11th of April, 1765, at Penbryn, in the county of Cardigan. Several of his poetical compositions in the Welsh language are now printed. He left behind, also, about 80 volumes of ancient manuscripts, which are now deposited in the Welsh charity school in London. Richard Morris, his brother, was also an ingenious Welsh critic and poet: he passed the greater part of his life as first clerk in the navy office; during which time, he superintended the printing of two valuable editions of the Welsh Bible. He died in the year 1779.

Pen Traeth hath its church dedicated to Saint Mary. The name signifies a head or point of sand, being situate upon a bay facing the Irish sea, called Traeth Coch, or "Red Wharf." According to Mr. Morris, Red Wharf is a noted place for the limestone trade, which is carried on to all the neighbouring counties. At a place called Twll y Wig, in this bay, there are large loose blocks of grey marble, which have been thrown out of their beds by the sea. Near this place are noted quarries of mill-stone of the grit kind, which are shipped off here. The sand of this place is good manure. The Rev. Henry Rowlands, in his *Mona Antiqua Restaurata*, informs us, that Gerinnus or Geraint, who was grandson of Constantine Duke of Cornwall, the successor of King Arthur, being admiral of the British fleet, and having thereby sometimes occasion to harbour in the isle of Anglesea, probably caused the church of Pen Traeth to be built, and thence called Llan Fair Bettws Geraint. He is celebrated in a particular

ticular ode, called *Cywydd Geraint ab Erbin*, by Llywarch Hên. The little chapel of Pen Traeth, according to Mr. Grose, is more remarkable for its simplicity and the beauty of the rural scenes by which it is surrounded, than for any matters of antiquity or curiosity in its construction or contained within its walls: it is, nevertheless, no very modern building, its form being that of the most ancient chapels in Wales. Among the other humble ornaments with which it is decorated within, are a number of paper garlands suspended from the roof: these, from the circumstance of their having each a pair of hands in the centre, seem to commemorate the hymeneal unions of some of the parishioners. Here are no funeral monuments older than the sixteenth century.

Rhôs Colyn hath its church dedicated to Saint Gwenfaen, and it is supposed to have been first built about the year 630. It is situate upon St. George's Channel. A green amianthus, or brittle asbestos, is met with in great plenty in a green marble here. Rowlands, in his *Mona Antiqua Restaurata*, derives Rhôs Colyn thus: 'Rhos Colyn, or Colofn, a column; the Romans usually erecting columns at the utmost bounds of their victories, as Dion Cassius relates.' Rhos, in the Welsh language, means a tract or a piece of uncultivated land. There is an imperfect tradition in this parish that Colyn, or Iolyn, is a man's name: this, however, is uncertain. It is commonly understood that its ancient name was Llanwenfaen. Rowlands also observes the same, and that Gwenfaen, sister to Peulan, had her cloister at Rhôs Colyn, which afterwards became a parish church called Llan Gwenfaen; as her brother's cloister was at Llan Beulan. That there was, at one time or other, a house of worship standing on the spot which is now pointed out as its site, and which may formerly have given name to the parish, appears most probable, as well from the general prevalence of the tradition as from the constant discovery of human bones, whenever that piece of ground is cut up either by the spade or the ploughshare.

Priestholm or Glan Ach is a small island about a mile from the shore, which, perhaps, might have been the principal residence of the religious of Pen Môn, for the priory goes under both names; usually they are called *Canonici de insula Glann Ach.* Probably part might reside on the main land, to look after their property, and others be engaged in acts of devotion in their retirement. The only remains of their residence is a square tower: but abundance of human bones, scattered up and down, are strong proofs of its reputed sanctity, and the superstitious wish of people to have this made the place of their interment. The first recluses of this island, according to Giraldus, were Hermits. The channel, or, as it is called, the sound, between the main land and Priestholm, is very deep, and is the common passage for ships to and from the road of Beaumaris. On the other side is the east passage, which, at low water, is between the island and

and the point of Traeth Telafon, little more than a quarter of a mile broad, and navigable for only small vessels. The island is about a mile long, extremely lofty, and bounded by precipices, except on the side opposite Pen Môn, and even there the ascent is very steep: the land slopes greatly from the summit to the edge of the precipices. During part of summer, the whole island swarms with birds of passage. The slope on the side is animated with the puffin auks, who annually resort here in myriads from April to August; where they breed, that one part of the island appears at times almost covered with them. On their arrival they first form burrows, and lay one white egg, which is generally hatched by the beginning of July. Their noise, when caught, is horrible, resembling much a dumb person; their chief food is sprats and sea weeds until the time of their emigration, which is about the middle of August. The channel between Priestholm and Anglesea has produced some very uncommon fish.

The Skerries or Isle of Seals is situate at the north-western point of Anglesea, it is a rocky little island, possessed by a few sheep, rabbits, and puffins, with a good light-house of great use to mariners; the light may be seen at the distance of seven or eight leagues, and is of great use to ships sailing between Ireland and the ports of Chester and Liverpool. From this coast are plainly seen the town of Carnarvon, the Straits of Menai, with some high and grand mountains, and Snowdon at a distance: scenery which must at all times convey an idea of elegance and dignity.

The following eminent men were natives of the county of Anglesea: —Meilir Brydydd, o Dre Feilir (some of his compositions are in the Welsh Archaiology), died about 1150; Gwalchmai ab Meilir (ditto), 1180; Eineon ab Gwalchmai (ditto), 1200; Meilir ab Gwalchmai (ditto), 1200; Ednyved Vychan, 1230; Goronwy Gurrog, 1360; Goronwy Ddu ab Tudyr ab Heilyn, 1370; Gruffydd Grug, of Aberffraw, 1370; Robin Ddu o Fôn, or Robin Ddu ab Siancyn Bledrydd, 1370; Sir David Trevor, 1500; Lewis Môn, 1500; Davydd Alaw, 1540; Sion Brwynog, or Sion ab Hywel ab Llywelyn ab Ithel, 1540; Arthur Bulkeley, Bishop of Bangor, 1541; William Glynn, Bishop of Bangor, 1555; Rowland Meyrick, Bishop of Bangor, 1561; Hugh Perri, 1590; Dr. John Davydd Rhŷs, poet, grammarian, and physician, 1609; Hugh Hughes, or Bard Côch, 1760; Richard Lloyd, of Henblas, Bishop of Worcester; Gronw Owain, M. A. Bard; Sir Griffith Llwyd; Dr. Henry Morris, polemical writer.

MONTGOMERYSHIRE.

MONTGOMERYSHIRE.

THIS county is bounded on the north by Merionethshire and Denbighshire, on the north and north-east by Shropshire, on the south by Radnorshire and Cardiganshire, and on the west by the last mentioned county and Merionethshire. It is called by the English Montgomeryshire, from Roger de Montgomery, Earl of Shrewsbury, who about the year 1092 entered Powysland (as this county and part of Denbighshire was then called), and took the town and castle of Baldwyn, then possessed by the Welsh, fortified the place, and called it, after his own name, Montgomery. The county is known to the Welsh by the name of Sir Drevaldwyn. This Baldwin was Lieutenant of the Marches under William the Conqueror, from whom the Welsh call the principal town Tre Valdwyn (Baldwin's Town), and the county (when so formed by King Henry VIII.) Sir Dre Valdwyn; for before that time, as before mentioned, it was called by the Welsh Gwlad Bowys, and by the English Powysland. Its principal market towns are Montgomery, Welshpool, Machynlleth, Newtown, Llanidloes, Llanfyllin, and Llanfair. Montgomeryshire was one of the five new counties formed by act of parliament in the time of Henry VIII. The others were the shires of Monmouth, Denbigh, Brecknock, and Radnor. Prior to that time it was divided, according to Leland, into High and Low, or Upper and Nether Powys. "In High or Upper Powisland," observes that author, "north-westward towards Aberystwith, are two lordships, Aurustli and Cavilioc (Cyveiliog). In Arustli is no pretty town nor market, but Llanidloes. In all High Powys is not one castle, that evidently appeareth by manifest ruins of walls; and they were wont to bring, in times past (in the old Lord Dudley's days), their prisoners to Welshpool. Low Powys is in length from Buttington bridge, about two miles from Welshpool towards Shrewsbury. In Low Powys is but only the castle of Welshpool. All Nether Powys, with Welshpool market and castle, belongs to the Lord Powys. Welshpool had two Lord Marchers' castles, within one wall, the Lord Powys named Greye, and the Lord Dudley called Sutton; but now the Lord Powis hath both in his own hands. The Welshpool castle is in compass almost as much as a little town; the Lord (Duddele) Dudley's part is almost fallen down; the Lord Powis's part is meatly good. Welshpool, five miles from Montgomery, is the best market in Low Powis, and Mahentle (Machynlleth) in Cavilioc (Cyveiliog) is the second town of Mongomerikeshire, and there was once a year a session to be kept there; it is sixteen Welsh miles from Montgomery. Poor Caerllews, hath been a market and a borough privileged." "Keri lordship,"

lordship," says also Leland, "Kidowen lordship, Alcestlitle lordship, the lordship of Treelte *alias* Three Towns, belongs to Montgomery, as parts or members of it, and be in the King's hands. Arustli and Kevilioc lordships now belong also to the King; they were lately the Lord Dudley's. Master Mittion, of Shropshire, is now Lord of Mouthey lordship, first allotted to Montgomeryshire, afterwards to Merionethshire. Dowder (Deuddwr) did belong to the Lord Dudley, but now to Master Andrews, of Oxfordshire. All Chirbyri hundred, by the new act, is added to Shropshire, but before the division it was a member of the lordship of Montgomery; and the Worthing village, six miles from Montgomery, was a boundary to Shropshire, but now Shropshire one way toucheth within a mile and a half of Montgomery town. Caerdicol (Caerdigol) is four miles from Montgomery. It standeth in Chirbury hundred on a hill, and is moated and diked like the moat a mile out of Bishop's Town. Clun castle, belonging to the Earl of Arundel, is somewhat ruinous. It hath been both strong and well built. It is about seven miles from Montgomery, and three from Bishop's Town (Castle), and ten from Ludlow. Clun, or Clune, was a lordship marched by itself, before the new act forming five new shires or counties. Between Newtown and Montgomery I saw, on the left hand upon a woody hill-top, the walls of Talvarran (Dolvorwyn) castle. It is in the lordship of Kidowen, and about half a mile or more from the river Severn, and three miles above Montgomery. This was the principal place in all this lordship. Clun Forrest is very fair, and good game in it; but in Kerry forest there is no deer, and none in Kidowen forest. Strata Marcellæ, "Abbey of White Monks," is in Low Powys, two miles from Welshpool, hard on the further bank of the Severn. Llanlligan, a very small poor nunnery, about the border of Kidowen and Nether Powys. Chirbury, a priory of canons in Chirbury hundred, now in Shropshire, two miles from Montgomery, and much of the stone and lead were brought to repair Montgomery. Castel Cough (Castell Côch), in English Red Castle, standeth on a rock of dark red-coloured stone. It had two separate wards, one whereof was the Lord Dudley's, but now both belong to Lord Powys."

The greater part of the present county of Montgomery was, in the time of the Romans, included in the territory of the Ordovices: but the Cornavii, Carnabii, or Carinavii, inhabited all the present Shropshire and Cheshire. Ancient Powys was originally very extensive, for when entire, it reached, in a straight line, from Broxton Hills, in Cheshire, southward, to Pengwern Powys, now called Shrewsbury, including a large tract in both these counties: from thence to the eastern limits of Montgomeryshire, comprehending all that county, part of Radnorshire, and Brecknockshire: then, turning northward, included the commots of Mawddwy, Edeirnion, and Glyn Dyfrdwy, in the county of Merioneth, and, circuiting part of Denbighshire,

came

came along the hills, to the east of the Vale of Clwyd, as far as Moel Vamma, including all the county of Denbigh, except the present lordships of Ruthin and Denbigh: from thence eastward to the Broxton hills, taking Molesdale, Hopedale, and Maelor, in Flintshire. It appears by the articles of pacification between Henry the Third and Llywelyn, the last prince, that the limits of the principality experienced but a small diminution from what they were in Offa's time, when it was agreed that the Dee should be the boundary from Wirral to Castrum Leonum, or Holt, and from thence, in a direct line, to Pengwern Powys, or Shrewsbury. Wales was, perhaps, of much greater extent under the reign of Brochwel Ysgythrog, Prince of Powys, about A.D. 660, who was defeated by the Saxons at the battle of Chester. After this event the borders became a scene of rapine, the Welsh and the Mercians alternately making the most terrible inroads into each other's dominions, till the time of Offa, A.D. 780, who, passing the Severn with a mighty force, expelled the Britons from their fruitful seats on the plains, and reduced the kingdom of Powys to the western side of the celebrated Dyke, still known by his name. The Princes of Powys were then constrained to quit their ancient residence at Pengwern or Shrewsbury, and remove it to Mathrafal, in the vale of Meivod: from this period their kingdom was called, indifferently, that of Powys or Mathraval. The plains of Shropshire then became part of the Mercian kingdom; but the two Maelors, with many other commots, still continued to be the portions of Powys.

About the year 843, Rhodri the Great, prince of Wales, in his mother's right, possessed North Wales (Gwynedd); in that of his wife, South Wales, (Dinevor); and by that of his grandmother, Nêst, sister and heiress to Congen ap Cadell, King of Powys, claimed all that portion of the principality. That prince, according to the destructive custom of gavel-kind, divided his dominions between his three sons. To Anarawd, he gave North Wales; to Cadell, South Wales; and to Mervyn, Powys. Each of them wore a talaith, or diadem of gold, beset with precious stones, whence they were styled, "Y tri Tywysog Taleithing," or the three crowned princes. After the death of Mervyn, his portion was claimed by his brother Cadell, whose eldest son, Hywel Ddâ, or the Good, in 940, again united all Wales into one government. We shall pass over the confusion which ensued after his death till the time of Bleddyn ap Cynvyn, who governed Wales at the time of the conquest, and united the kingdoms of North Wales and Powys. After his death, Trahaiarn ap Caradog took possession of Gwynedd, of which he was afterwards deprived by Gruffydd ap Cynan; and his three sons, Meredydd, Cadwgan, and Iorwerth, under whose government Powys still continued, were inveigled into the treasonable designs of Robert Belesmo, the son of Roger Montgomery, Earl of Shrewsbury, and Arnulph, his brother,

Earl

Earl of Pembroke, who had engaged in rebellion against King Henry the First. By artfully detaching Iorwerth from the confederacy, Henry succeeded in quelling this insurrection. A series of feuds and hostilities, unpleasing in the recital, arise at this period in the history of Wales. However, after the usual contentions between the brethren respecting the divisions of their father's territories, the government of Powys became invested in Meredydd, the eldest son, and he, a short time prior to his decease, made the division which finally destroyed the power of this once potent kingdom. It is evident that the territories of the princes of Powys were more subject to the incursions of the English than the other part of North Wales, on account of their proximity to the marches or borders, and notwithstanding the princes and lords of Powys were homagers and tributaries of the princes of Aberffraw, or North Wales, who had the superiority by the laws of Hywel Ddâ, yet, being compelled by the rigorous conduct of the English, they frequently broke their allegiance to the princes of Gwynedd, and took the contrary part with the kings of England.

The population of this county, like that of all others in the northern division of the principality, is rapidly increasing. The increase of population, particularly in the parishes of Newtown and Llanidloes, is attributed to the improvement in trade, and the flourishing state of the woollen manufactures.

This being a bordering county, and the inhabitants (in the course of trade) having regular intercourse with their Saxon neighbours, as the Welsh called them, the English language has made greater progress and encroached more upon the Welsh during the last century in this, than probably in any other county in Wales, except Radnorshire. Being anxious (says a modern writer) to ascertain more particularly in what parishes the former was spoken, and the latter either totally discontinued or but partially used, I made application to a gentleman who is resident in the county, and perfectly competent to answer my enquiries on this or any other subject relative to the language, history, and antiquities of the principality, and received from him the following very satisfactory reply:—"*Cyffiniau Cymru a Lloegr* (confines or boundaries of England and Wales): In what parishes in Montgomeryshire the English language is vernacular? I will commence my tour at Eisteddfa Gurig (Saint Gurig's seat or chair, near the source of the triad streams, Severn, Wye, and Rheidiol, which latter goes into the sea near Aberystwith). The population of Llangurig and Llanidloes, on the south of the Severn, is mostly Welsh, and Welsh services predominate in the churches; but whether English be read every third or fourth Sunday I cannot say. Down the Severn from Llanidloes the population becomes gradually more Anglicised on the south side. Llandinam has some Welsh service, but the quantum depends in a great measure on the bias of the minister. Below Llandinam,

Llandinam, keeping still on the south of Severn (here the line of demarcation), the population and church service are English; including Penystrywad, Mochdref, Newtown, Kerry, Llanmerewig, Llandyssil, Montgomery, Forden, and Buttington, which border on Shropshire. Opposite Llanidloes and Llandinam, on the north of Severn, Welsh population prevails, viz. in the parishes of Carno, Trefeglwys, and Llanwnog, and Welsh more than English duties are performed in the churches. Following the Severn still on the north side to Aberhafesp, Tregynon, Llanllwchaern, Bettws (the Bedwg of the Archaiology), and Berriew, the population becomes more English, and the service in the churches entirely English. To the north of the last line of parishes Welsh is the exclusive language, and is read in the churches of Llanwyddelan and Llanllugan; Manafon has Welsh and English alternately; the parishes called Chwe Plwy Cyveiliog (the six parishes of Cyveiliog), viz. Machynlleth, Llanwrin, Penegos, Darowain, Cemmaes, and Llanbrynmair, are decidedly Welsh. To the east of Cyveiliog, namely, in the parishes of Garthbeibio, Llangadvan, and Llanervul, the language is nearly altogether Welsh, though English is used once a month in the latter church, chiefly for the convenience of one or two families. Proceeding still eastward, the parishes of Llanvair-Caereineon, Llangynyw, Castell, Meivod, Llanvechain, Llansanffraid, Llanvyllin, and Llangedwyn, have a mixed population, the Welsh considerably predominating, yet the church service is in some of them alternate, in others once in three weeks, &c. Above, or west of these parishes, viz. in Llanrhaiadr-yn-Mochnant, Llangynog, Pennant Melangel, Hirnant, Llanwddyn, and Llanfihangel-yn-Ngwynva, the population is Welsh, and the services are the same. On the north of the Severn, in the eastern extremity of the county, viz. the parishes of Pool, Guilsfield, Llandrinio, and Llandyssilio on Offa's Dyke, the services are become entirely English within the last century, though in all of them there may still be some inhabitants who would prefer Welsh; for even here the zealous itinerants are able to collect Welsh audiences. From the above sketch it appears that the line of demarcation in Montgomeryshire between the Welsh and English, though not easily drawn, may be traced from the junction of the Tanat with the Vyrnwy above Llanymyneich, and proceeding southward, leaving on the left (on the English side) New Chapel, Guilsfield, Pool, Berriew, Tregynon, and Aberhafesp, and thence following the Severn to Pumlumon mountain, though for many miles from its source, the Welsh is the prevailing language on both sides.

Ever since the Reformation, various attempts have been made to eradicate the Welsh language; but, like the sturdy natives of Cambria, it has continued to dispute its ground inch by inch, though its enemies have been incessant in their attacks, and have had recourse at different periods both to stratagem and open hostility, to promises and persuasions,

suasions, threats and intimidations. This will appear evident to any one who will take the trouble to consult Dr. Llewelyn's *Tracts*, and the revered Mr. Walter's *Dissertation on the Welsh Language*, Dr. John Rees's *Welsh Preface* to his Grammar, and Roger Kyffin's Preface to the *Translation of Bishop Jewel's Apology*. Though it was enacted by parliament in the year 1563, that the Old and New Testament should be translated into the British or Welsh tongue, and that the work when finished should be viewed, perused, and allowed by the Bishops of St. Asaph, Bangor, St. David's, Llandaff, and Hereford; yet it does not appear, that any persons were nominated to compleat this arduous undertaking, no means specified, and no funds appropriated for that purpose; and although a penalty of forty pounds was to be levied on each of the said bishops, yet these prelates would, no doubt, have preferred paying that sum to the risk of incurring the expense which was likely to attend such a publication. When, however, a benevolent clergyman, the Rev. William Morgan, Rector of Llanrhaiader yn Mochnant, in this county, undertook the Herculean task, seemingly from motives of benevolence and compassion towards his countrymen, some malicious persons, instigated, no doubt, by the enemies of the Welsh language, contrived to harass and annoy him, and to impede the progress of his work, by presenting a memorial to the Archbishop of Canterbury, containing some frivolous and vexatious complaints, and representing him as intentionally and voluntarily absenting himself from his benefice, when he was from necessity compelled to be in London, in order to superintend the printing of his Bible, which appeared in the year 1588, and was the first edition of the Old and New Testament in the Welsh language. Mr. William Salusbury's New Testament came out in 1567: but as these, and Bishop Parry's, in 1620, were intended solely for the use of Churches, the Welsh had not an abundant supply of Bibles, and, consequently had not the advantage of reading the Word of God in their own language for upwards of a century after this period. The poorer classes were consequently kept in darkness and ignorance till about the middle of last century, when another humane, benevolent, and public-spirited clergyman, the Rev. Griffith Jones, of Llanddowror, in Carmarthenshire, began to establish Welsh charity schools, and went about collecting subscriptions and preaching in different churches in aid of this christian undertaking, until, at last, by his indefatigable zeal and industry (aided by a few active persons of a similar disposition), the schools amounted to some hundreds, and were spread over North and South Wales. This excellent man had the happiness to see the fruits of his labours, having lived many years to superintend these excellent institutions. Mr. Jones continued to publish annual reports of the proceedings in the management of these schools until the period of his death in 1761. The commencement of these institutions constituted a new era in the annals of the principality,

pality, and the inhabitants have since that time gradually become more enlightened, more humane, and generally better informed.

Whitaker, in his *History of Manchester*, supposes the two great roads, generally considered to be Roman, viz. "Guetheling, or Watling Street," leading from Sandwich to Segontium (Carnarvon), and the Icenin from Dorsetshire to Suffolk, to have been formed by the Britons (the former by the Cantæ, and the latter by the Belgæ), prior to the arrival of that adventurous and warlike people, who greatly improved the roads, and constructed several others, such as the *Via Julia*, which crossed the country of the Silures. He supposes Watling Street to have been called by the Britons Sarn Guithelin or Gwyddeling, from the circumstance of its leading to Ireland, the seat of the Gwyddeli (or Gwyddel and Gwyddelwyr) as they are called by the Welsh; and the other Sarn Icenil (or Rhicenil yr Hicenilwyr y Canolwyr), from its direction to the country of those people. With regard to the much disputed, and yet undecided, controversy respecting the scite of Mediolanum, *Camden (f.* 651*)* makes the following observation:—"I am firmly persuaded, and I think I have truth on my side, that in this region of the Ordovices stood Mediolanum, celebrated by Antoninus and Ptolemy, whose traces I carefully sought for, but with little success, so completely does time prey upon cities. If I may, however, form a conjecture from situation, as the other towns placed here by Antoninus are easy to find, viz. Bovium on one side, now Bangor on the Dee, and on the other Rutunium, now Rowton Castle, from the latter of which he makes it twelve miles distant, and from the former 20: the lines of position, if I may so call them, or rather of distance, intersect each other between Mathraval and Llanvethlin (Llanfylling), which are scarcely three miles asunder, and point out the situation of our Mediolanum almost to demonstration: for this method of finding the situation of a third place, by two already known, cannot be liable to uncertainty, when neither mountains interpose, nor the course of the roads is obstructed. This Mathraval, which is five miles west of the Severn, and which in part proves its antiquity, though now but a bare name, was once the seat of the princes of Powys, and is celebrated by writers, who relate, that in it, after the princes had abandoned it, Robert de Vieuxpont, or Vipont, of England, built a castle; but Llanvethlin (a small market town) is yet nearer allied by name to our Mediolanum, though somewhat further from the intersection of the lines."

Gale, Stukeley, Horseley, &c. according to their various conjectures and surmises, have placed Mediolanum, some at Meivod, others at Drayton, &c.; and the editors of the *Beauties of England and Wales*, having probably been informed that the late Rev. Peter Roberts was of opinion that Clawdd Coch, in the parish of Llanymynech, had the fairest claim to the honour of being considered as the scite

scite of the long-lost Mediolanum, entered it as such in their maps of stations, though in the body of the work they have fixed on Penybont, near the junction of the Cynllaith with the Tanat, as the most probable place. And Sir Richard Colt Hoare, after having made three successive journies from Stourhead, in Wilts, to the vale of the Tanat, and having anxiously and attentively explored that neighbourhood, came to the conclusion that it must have been situated in that vale, and that the rapid Tanat had swept away every vestige of the ancient station. Mr. Pennant asserts, that when he was in this country, and passing over Gwynfynydd, he could easily trace the Roman road called Sarn Swsan, and that from Caer Sws it points towards Meivod, and might be distinctly traced as far as the banks of the Vyrnwy, near Lyssin: and Dr. Worthington, at that time Vicar of Rhaiadr-yn-Mochnant, assured Mr. Pennant that the same road was discernible in his parish at a place called Street Vawr, near Coed y Clawdd, and that it crossed Rhôs y Brithdir to Pen y Street, and from thence to Llaniwrch, and thence to Caerfach, which is supposed to have been a small Roman camp; and he was of opinion that it went from thence nearly in a direct line for Chester. The same gentleman mentioned another road to Mr. Pennant, which appeared to have come from Rutunium (Rowton, in Shropshire), and crossed the Tanat at Garth-eryr, from thence it passed Street y Planirau to Maengwynedd, winding up to Bwlch Maengwynedd, and bearing the name of Ffordd Gam Helen (Helen's Crooked Road). Caer Sws, before mentioned, is supposed by Mr. Pennant to have been a Roman town. On the north-west side of it are hollows, which possibly might have been the fosses of the ancient precincts; and bricks have been found there, one of which was presented to Mr. Pennant, having thereon the letters C. I. F. and under them S. P. E. A Roman coin was also discovered there, but of what emperor is uncertain. The Roman causeway (says Mr. William Jones, in his *History of the Three Parishes of Llanervul, Llangadvan, and Garthbeibio,*) called Sarn Sws or Sarn Swsan, which leads from the old Roman station Caer Sws to Chester, or rather the old Roman road from Caer Llion (Caer Lleng) ar Wysc to Caer Lleon ar Ddyfrdwy (Chester), enters the parish of Llanervul on the hills of the Drum, goes through a bog called Cors y Visog (now impassable), from thence it crosses the moors in a direct line to Bwlch y Drum, and, having gone down Cynniwyll, it crosses the Danwy below Neauddwenn, and then (up Craig y Go) it enters the parish of Llanmihangel at a place called Rhyd Pont Ystyllod. There was a bridge over the river on this spot, as appears by the name Pont Ystyllod (a timber bridge); and the Roman road from Uriconium to Segontium must have crossed the Sarn about this place, though it is covered with coarse grass on the moorish grounds of the Drum; yet it may be easily discovered at some distance in the form of a ridge, and the pavement may be found somewhat below the surface. The

quarries

quarries where the stones have been procured, and the scite of the workmen's huts, are still discernible. The site of the Roman encampment at Caer Sws is visible, being a quadrangular rampart about 150 yards square. It bears evident marks of having been a place of considerable note: tradition says that it formerly extended from Aberhavesp to Ystrad Vaelawn. It is now an inconsiderable hamlet, situate on the river Severn above Newtown. Besides the one noted by Mr. Pennant, a brick was dug up in the south-east angle, which had the following inscription in alto relievo: G. I. C. I. P. B. There are considerable remains of four encampments in its vicinity—Rhos Ddiarbed, Gwynfynydd, Y Gaer Fechan, and Cefn Carnedd. The name Caer Sws is supposed by some to be derived from Hesus, a Roman lieutenant, which was pronounced by the Britons Caer Hesoos, and by contraction Caer Sws or Soos."

In a mountainous district like North Wales there must naturally be a variety of climate, and a great difference of temperature, not only occasioned by the seasons of the year and the changes of weather, but by proximity to high mountains or distance from the sea shore: for it is generally remarked, and we believe universally admitted, that the sea air is milder than the interior; and it is a well-known fact, that those counties which border on the sea shore have a much smaller portion of frost and snow in severe winters than those more inland. For instance, when the snow has been many feet, and in some places many yards deep, along the whole line of the Irish road from Salop to London, the island of Anglesey has been frequently known to be perfectly free from snow. Judging from this circumstance, we may suppose that the air in this county must in general, except in well-sheltered situations, be colder and keener than in Anglesea or any other maritime counties, or parts of counties, bordering on the sea. But as the mountains which surround the county of Montgomery slope more gradually, and are not so lofty, abrupt, rocky, and precipitous, as those in the interior of Merionethshire and Carnarvonshire, it may not be subject to those violent tornadoes and whirlwinds which are not unfrequent in the vicinity of Snowdon and Cader Idris. As to general appearance, this county has the advantage in this respect of most of the other counties in the principality, as its hills slope gradually, and their surface is mostly covered with herbage. The vale of the Severn is not only rich, but very picturesque and beautiful. The difference in climate is so great in the mountainous districts in North Wales, that the humidity of the atmosphere falls in rain in the vallies, in sleet on the sides of the hills, and in snow on the highest mountains. Montgomeryshire has been, and is still, and will continue for some years to be, the best wooded of any county in the principality, and, of its size, is one of the best in the kingdom. The woods were so abundant that, less than a century back, the fuel of a great part of the county consisted almost entirely of the best cleft timber, but which, within

within the last eighty years, began to be of some value, from its finding its way into the navy market. The first sale was from Abertanat Wood, on the confines of Shropshire. About the year 1750 the woods of Powis Castle Park, Abernant, and Trefedryd followed. From that period the county contributed annually to the supply of the navy and of the commerce of the nation. In the reign of Henry the Third, the timber on the Vaenor estate was destroyed to cut off the retreat of the Welsh; in that of George the Third it was converted to a more laudable purpose, to assist in perpetuating to our sea-girt isle the sovereignty of the seas. The fall at Vaenor Park, in 1796, deprived the county of much of its most valuable timber, of which the following were some of the most noted dimensions:—one oak measured 68 inches in circumference at the height of 73 feet; another measured 687 cubic feet, and was valued at two shillings per foot, exclusive of bark. On the Garth estate, near Guilsfield, some of the finer oak forest trees were from ten to twelve feet in circumference; one in particular, in the parish of Meivod, measured 55 feet in length, and ten feet in circumference in the middle. Montgomeryshire abounds with common wastes, where oak trees grow naturally, but they are perpetually kept under by the browsing of cattle, and by poor people who cut them for fuel. Leland's observations respecting this county are as follow:—"All the lordships set in this county (Montgomeryshire) be for the most part mountainous, well wooded, and as they be used better for cattle as grass than corn; yet about Welsh Pool and Montgomerick is good plenty of corn."

The principal rivers are the Severn (Yr Haf-Rhen), Dovey or Dyfi, Y Vyrnyw, Tanat, Clwedog, Banwy, Hafesp, Rhiw, Carno, Twrch, Dulas, Mule, Lledan, Cain, and Marchnant. The lakes are but small, and few in number, the principal of which are Llyn Gwyddior, Llyn y Grinwydden, Llyn Hir, Llyn y Bugail, Llyn Glaslyn, Llyn Bogelyn, Llyn Broniarth in the parish of Guilsfield, and Llyn Ddu in Powis Castle Park. The Vyrnyw and Tanat abound with fish, the former so much that it merits the title of *Piscosus amnis.* The Tanat falls into the Vyrnyw at Abertanat, and the Vyrnyw into the Severn at a place called Y Cymmerau ("the Conflux"), in the lower end of the parish of Guilsfield; not far distant from which are those picturesque rocks, distinguished by the names of Y Vreiddin, Moel y Golfa, and Cefn y Castell. During some of those skirmishes which the Welsh had with the English, and after keeping watch all night near the fords of the Vyrnyw and Severn, near the Breiddin hills, just at the dawn of day, that celebrated bard and warrior Gwalchmai, the son of Meilir (who flourished about the year 1200), composed some beautiful lines, of which the late Rev. Richard Williams, rector of Machynlleth, has given the following translation:

> Rise, orb of day! the eastern gates unfold,
> And shew thy crimson mantle, fring'd with gold:

Contending

Contending birds sing sweet on ev'ry spray,
The skies are bright,—arise, thou orb of day!
I, Gwalchmai, call—in song, in war renown'd,
Who, lion-like, confusion spread around—
The live-long night the Hero and the Bard,
Near Vreiddin's rocks, have kept a constant guard;—
Where cold transparent streams in murmurs glide,
And springing grass adorns the mountains' side,
Where snow-white sea mews in the current play,
Spread their gay plumes, and frolic through the day.

The riches of Montgomeryshire proceed from its sheep, wool, and flannels, with other coarse cloth manufactured from its annual produce; for the hills are almost entirely sheepwalks, while the farms situate in the vallies appear only appendages for their winter habitations and provisions. The manufactures were formerly collected through the county once or twice a year, and sent to Welshpool when in a rough state, whence they were carried to Shrewsbury, to be finished and exported; which traffic Dyer describes thus:—

"The Northern Cambrians, an industrious tribe,
Carry their labours on Pygmean steeds,
Of size exceeding not Leicestrian sheep,
Yet strong and sprightly: over hill and dale
They travel, unfatigued, and lay their bales
In Salop's streets, beneath whose lofty walls
Pearly Sabrina waits them with her barks,
And spreads the swelling sheet."

"Until within these few years (says the Rev. Walter Davies) the only market for webs was held weekly (on Thursday) at Shrewsbury, where they were exposed to sale in a hall belonging to the drapers of that town, and no buyers but of that particular fraternity were admitted. In this Court of Justice the biddings of monopoly were equal to dictatorial edicts, neither remonstrance nor appeal could be of any use. But lately the manufacturers have had the good fortune to have the market in their own houses, and the drapers the well-deserved pleasure of employing buyers by commission, at about £1. 5s. per cent. who frequently purchase the pieces before they are out of the looms." Flannels constitute the grand and most important of the Welsh manufactures. The texture and use of this comfortable commodity it is unnecessary to point out: it is chiefly the produce of Montgomeryshire, but by no means confined to this county, being made in various places within a circle of fifty miles round Welshpool. Formerly flannels were manufactured by the tedious operation of the hand, by farmers and cottagers in their houses. Of late the powerful agency of water has been brought to their assistance, and numerous spinning machines have been erected in Montgomeryshire. Besides these, there are several manufactories at Welshpool, Llanidloes, Newtown, Machynlleth, Berriew, &c.

Within these few years the roads in this county have been much improved,

improved, chiefly at the expense of the landholders, by statute labour and rates periodically levied. The Mac Adam system of reforming rough roads has generally been adopted; and the tonnage along the canal has greatly relieved the roads, by materials for their repairs being conveyed along it to a great distance. The Snowdon range of mountains abound more in slate than the Berwyn: in the latter slates are raised at Oernant, Glyn Ceiriog, Maengwynedd, near Cadair Verwyn, and Llangynog; Dinas Mowddwy, Moel Grychan, near Aberllefeni, Gogarth, and Peniarth Uchav, between Cadair Idris and the sea, also produce this article. Breiddin Hill, in the Severn or Pumlumon range, is chiefly composed of a greenish serpentine: and Moel y Golva, near it, contains some burr for mill-stones; when these were first discovered, they were thought to be equal to the French stones, and a medal, value £50, for such discovery, was voted by the Society of Antiquarians to Mr. Field Evans, of Pool Quay; but they were at last found to be far inferior to the French, and the work was soon totally abandoned. Further on, towards the Long Mountain, grey lime-stone and other fossils foreign to this tract of country appear, but they are of a very limited continuance. The tract about Breiddin, by the singularity of its general character, induces many to suppose that it contains metallic ores; lead ore has also been raised in the other extremity of the range, near Llanidloes; but, upon the whole, it seems to be unpromising. Lime is carried into this county from Porth y Waen and Llanymynech rocks, on the confines of Shropshire, to the distance of forty miles, where it costs the farmer from thirty to forty shillings per ton. Since the Montgomeryshire canal has been made, lime-stone and coal are conveyed there as far as Welsh Pool, and so on up to Newtown, where a great number of kilns have been erected on the different wharfs. The three counties of Montgomery, Merioneth, and Caernarvon have always been considered as entirely destitute of coal. The Montgomeryshire canal, issuing out of that of Ellesmere, crosses the Virniew at a short distance from the Llanymynech lime rocks, upon an aqueduct of five arches, 40 feet each in span and 25 feet above the ordinary surface of the water, exclusive of a number of arches adjoining the aqueduct to convey off the overflowing waters in the time of floods; from thence it proceeds along the vale of the Severn to Welsh Pool, and as far as Garthmill; and thence to Newtown. The chief articles imported into the county are lime-stone and coal, and of its exports timber, grain, and the produce of the dairy. The whole expense of forming the Montgomeryshire canal amounted to upwards of £70,000, including the sum of £2,000 expended in making a small branch, three miles in extent, to the pleasant village of Guilsfield. The Ellesmere canal, with which the Montgomeryshire one is connected, opens a communication between the

the rivers Severn, Dee, and Mersey, commencing from the latter at a place called Whitby, or Ellesmere Port. On the north side of the Dee another branch extends to Llangollen, and to the vicinity of Oernant slate quarries. From the end of the embankment, near the aqueduct of Pont y Cysylltau, the main canal proceeds to the west of the Park Dû collieries, the east of Bron-ŷ-Garth lime rocks, and between Chirk Castle and village, to the bank of the river Ceiriog, which, together with the dingle, it crosses upon a free-stone aqueduct at a great elevation above the level of the plain. At this place it quits North Wales and enters Shropshire, and having proceeded as far as Frankton, a branch, near the same place, takes a south-western direction to Llanymynech lime rocks, where it re-enters the county of Denbigh, and where the property of the Ellesmere Canal company terminates, and that of the Montgomeryshire commences. About two miles and a half of railway have been formed from the lime rocks at this place, for the easier conveyance of lime-stone into the boats.

Llangynog hath its church dedicated to Saint Cynog, one of the sons of Brychan, a saint who suffered martyrdom about the end of the fifth century. It consists of one township only, and is eight miles N. W. from Llanfyllin. This parish is about four miles in length and four in breadth. It lies in a pretty sequestered slip of fertile land, enclosed on all sides by the Berwyn mountains. A little distance from the village is a lead mine: the rock is of a coarse slate abounding with white opaque amorphous quartz, with great quantities of lead and calamine, both of which are sent raw to the foundries at Rhiwabon. Two miles from Llangynog is a remarkable lead mine, discovered in the year 1692, called Craig y Mwyn, which afforded formerly a considerable revenue to the Powis Castle family: it was in most parts three yards and a half thick, and was worked to the depth of a hundred yards, when the water became too powerful. It continued in a flourishing state nearly forty years, yielding about four thousand tons annually: the ore was sold at £7 per ton; it was smelted on the spot, and brought in a clear revenue to the family of Powis Castle of twenty thousand pounds. There are slate quarries at Graig y Gribbin, in this parish: the colour of the slate is blue, which is considered the most saleable. The village of Llangynog is celebrated for delicious trout, taken in the river Tanat, which flows through the vale of Llangynog, and is enclosed by the Virniew or Berwyn mountains.

On leaving Llangynog in a south-easterly direction, at the distance of about seven miles is

LLANVYLLIN,

a market town of considerable note, situate in a fertile vale on the banks of the river Cain, surrounded by lofty hills. It was first incorporated by Llewelyn ap Gruffydd, in the time of Edward the First, and its privileges were renewed by Edward de Charlton, Lord of Powis;

Powis; Charles the Second also granted it other privileges. The corporation consists of a high steward, recorder, two bailiffs (chosen annually), fourteen capital burgesses, a town clerk, and two serjeants at arms. Many Roman coins have been found here, still the learned contend that it was not a Roman station; saying that it was not customary with the Britons to prefix Llan, or church, to the names of Roman cities, but generally Caer, signifying a fort or fence: therefore the opinion that Mediolanum was situated here is generally disbelieved, and that place is supposed for many reasons to have been at Meivod. In the centre of the town stands the church (erected when the excellent Dr. Beveridge was bishop of the diocese), a neat brick building, dedicated to Saint Myllin. It was built about the year 1706, upon the scite of the old church. The peal of bells surpasses any in the county. Here are three endowed schools, one for twenty-four blue-coat boys, another for twelve blue-gowned girls, who are clothed at the expense of the foundation, and a third for children, who are not clothed. Some small waste lands were sold and enclosed, under an act of parliament, towards defraying the expenses of building a new town hall in 1775: it stands in the centre of the street; it is a brick building erected upon arches, and the space underneath is used as a market-place; the public business being transacted up stairs.—Bŏd Fach, near this town, the seat of Lord Mostyn (late Sir Edward Pryce Lloyd, Bart.), was once the residence of his maternal ancestors, the Kyffins.—On the left is Llwyn, the seat of William Humffreys, Esq. the grounds about which are tastefully laid out, and enriched with a number of large oak, beech, and other trees.

The markets and fairs of Llanfyllin are well attended, particularly for the purchase of Welsh merlins, which are brought here for sale in great numbers. A few anecdotes are preserved in the neighbourhood respecting Lord Castlemain, ambassador from James the Second to the Pope, who, after the Revolution, resided in retirement with the family of Price, in this town, called by the common people "Prices, the Papists." Thomas Price, a learned correspondent of the antiquaries of his time, had a large collection of manuscripts, which are supposed to have found their way into the Vatican library at Rome.—King Charles the First slept at Llanfyllin, Sept. 21, 1644; the next day he dined at Brithdir, near this place, and marched from thence through Mochnant to Cefnhirvynydd, and so along the tops of the hills to Chirk Castle. The rest of the forces marched to Llansilin; the day afterwards (being Tuesday) the King advanced to Chester; and on Wednesday, Sept. 24th, his forces were routed by the parliamentary army, at Rowton Moor, near Chester.

About seven miles to the south-east of Llanfyllin is Mathraval, in the parish of Llangynyw. The ancient seat of the Princes of Powys, after they had been expelled from Pengwern Bowys, or Shrewsbury, by

by the arms of Offa the Mercian, was situate here, on a little eminence near the junction of the two branches of the Virniew, at the western extremity of the valley of Meivod. The scite and a few ruins of the foundation are still visible; the burnt tiles used in the edifice had protuberances in the form of the present slate pins, to fasten them to the roof. It is said that Mervyn, the youngest son of Roderic the Great, succeeded to the Principality of Wales in the year 877, and a palace had been built here by the late prince. There is now a farm house erected on the scite of the stately castle of Mathrafal, which occupied nearly two acres, guarded on one side by the river, and on the other by a vast rampart of stone and earth, with a deep foss, and a high keep at one corner. The original fortress, according to the Welsh historians, was built by Robert Vipont in the year 1211, and soon after besieged by Llewelyn ab Iorwerth and his confederate army; but King John, being informed of their intention, collected an army and marched to Mathraval, in time to raise the siege and to prevent the Welsh possessing themselves of it. However this did not suffice, for he immediately ordered the castle to be burned to the ground, and then returned to England. The situation of Mathraval, within the angle of two rapid rivers, shewed more precaution in the founders than the more ancient Britons were generally possessed of, who most commonly erected their forts and camps on inaccessible rocks, never considering the necessity of water for the supply of a garrison. But notwithstanding the convenience of water, both for use and defence, Mathraval never could have been a place of safety for its occupiers; as it was immediately commanded by the gently rising grounds to the west. We have very little of it in history, as the princes, soon after its foundation, transferred their residence to Castell Coch ym Mhywys (now Powis Castle), about seven miles to the south —a place much superior in every point. It is probable, however, that the subsequent princes retained a predilection for the former seat of their predecessors, as several of the dynasty of the Convyns, and one even from Winchester, were inhumed within the walls of the neighbouring church of Saint Mary, in Meivod.—Two British encampments are still entire on hills to the west and north-west, in view of each other, which, with the castle of Mathraval, formed an equilateral triangle, a mile to each line. On the opposite side of the river, in Gwernddû wood, may be seen a circular entrenchment, and in the field beyond a round moat, supposed to have been a winter station of the Romans.—The Eisteddfod, or triennial assembly of the bards, was holden at the royal palace of Mathraval in the reigns of the ancient princes of Powis.

Meivod is one mile from Mathraval, and is said to have been the archdeaconry of all Powysland. It is a neat well-built village, situate in a fertile vale, in a most romantic situation, on the banks of the Fyrnwy, or Yr Afon Gam, "the meandering stream," at the foot of a lofty

lofty hill called Main. The churchyard is large, containing about nine acres, in the centre of which stands its venerable church. The present church, dedicated to Saint Mary, according to Caradoc the Historian, was founded about the year 1153. It was apparently built from the materials of two former churches, part of whose foundations are still visible in the present churchyard. One was dedicated to St Gwyddfarch, an anchorite in the earliest ages of christianity, and who is represented, in the Genealogies of Saints, as the son of Amalarus, a prince of Poland: the spot of his retirement at Meivod is still called Gwely Gwyddfarch, or "the bed of Gwyddfarch," on a rock bearing the name of Gallt yr Ancr, that is "the steep or rock of the Anchorite." The second church was dedicated to Tysilio, the son of Brochwel, Prince of Powys, a saint and writer who flourished about the middle of the seventh century: he wrote an Ecclesiastical History of Britain. The usual spelling of the name of this parish is Myfod, and according to the Welsh orthography Meivod. Mai-fôd may be translated "a summer habitation," and also "a low champaign dwelling;" Meu-fod, "a place of appropriation or peculiar possession;" Ymwy-fod as "Mesopotamia," or "between rivers," or from Meidwyfod, "an hermitage." In the twelfth century, Cynddelw, a native of this parish, in one of his poems, describes the present church, then newly founded, as situate between two rivers, which in subsequent times were joined in one at the head of the vale: the united stream is called Fyrnwy, rises near Bwlch-y-groes, and after a changeable course, during which it is joined by the Tannat, falls into the Severn at Cymmerau, near Llandrinio, about 12 miles below, or east of Meivod. Mr. Thomas Pryce, of Llanfyllin, a learned antiquary about the middle of the seventeenth century, in a letter to Mr. Josiah Babington, respecting Welsh antiquities, says, that "Myfod has a stronger claim to have been the Mediolanum of the Romans than Llan-Fyllin, as asserted by Camden." He says, "Besides the parish church now standing, I myself have seen the ruins of two others. I have also seen the ruins of a Crefydd-dy, or 'religious house.' Several pavements and hearths have been dug up in the neighbouring fields; one I know at a small distance from the village, and the field is still called Maes-y-porth, or "the Gateway Field." At a like distance is Pentre-go, "the Smithfield of Mediolanum;" it has two lanas (if lana means a brook); and the Italian Mediolanum (Milan) is watered by two channels, the Ticinus and Adder." Meivod became the dormitory of the princes of Powys at an early period, but how many are buried there cannot be ascertained. Dr. Powell, in his translation of Caradoc's History, mentions only two, Madoc ap Meredydd, an ally of Henry the Second, who died at Winchester, A.D. 1158, in that monarch's reign, and who, having rebuilt this church, was brought hither for interment, as was (in 1191) Gruffydd Maelor his son. The only relics of monumental antiquity

antiquity are two silicious free-stones, at present lying flat near one of the entrance doors, having a few years since been brought from a corner of the church, when they had been discovered under a pew: they have some rude sculptures in basso-relievo, though too rude to be attributed to any of the princes. By bearing the figure of a large sword, mistaken by some for a cross, it may naturally be supposed to have belonged to a crusader, who had escaped the scimitar of the Saracens in Palestine. Such antique tombstones of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, bearing the figures of a sword, are frequently met with in many parts of Wales. In the township of Dyffryn is a British encampment of some strength, on Galt-yr-Aner, with ten excavations cut in the solid rock to retain rain water. On Galt-y-Main, in the township of Main, levels and shafts have been worked in search of lead ore; some strings of potter's ore have been found: the rocks abound with barytes and the terra ponderosa vitriolata; and some ancient coins have been found in this place. Nant-y-Mynach, in this parish, is situate upon the rivulet Brogan, one of the most meandering streams in nature, which falls into the Cain at Llanfechan. The township of Tair-trêf takes its name from the junction of the three townships of Glascoed, Dolobran, and Bryn-bwa. In the township of Trêfnanney is Trêfnanney Hall; a gentleman's seat, adjoining to which is a British encampment, called The Gaer. There are but few gentlemen residing on their own estates in this parish, though there are several ancient residences, now inhabited by respectable farmers. The vicarage house is situate on a rising ground, commanding a fine view of the village, the vale beneath, the wide flowing Fyrnwy, and the Broniarth hills, rearing their lofty and frequently cloud-capped tops to the skies. In the upper part of this parish are two mineral springs, called Clawyd Wells, which are found efficacious in cutaneous and scrofulous disorders. Some few years ago, iron-works and manufactories of flannels were carried on at Dolobran to a great extent; but the buildings, together with apparatuses, are now fast falling to decay. On an elevated situation is Dolobran Hall, formerly belonging to the family of Lloyd, but now the property of Joseph Jones, Esq. Clerk of the Peace for the County. Charles Lloyd, Esq. banker, of Birmingham, departed this life 16th January, 1828, aged 80 years. His father, Sampson Lloyd, was the lineal descendant of a respectable family of great antiquity in this county, and who were for several generations seated at Dolobran. About the year 1662, the great-grandfather of Mr. Lloyd attached himself to the religious body called Quakers. In milder times his high character and connections would have protected him from the violence directed against this sect: and his refusal to take the oaths of supremacy and allegiance was a pretext for accusing him of disloyalty; his estates were subjected to a premunire, and heavy fines were levied upon his property, and after enduring with patience

patience and magnanimity ten years' imprisonment in Welsh Pool gaol, during which time his noble and animating example served to strengthen several who had embraced and suffered for the same faith, he removed to Birmingham in the year 1701, and engaged extensively in the iron trade.

At the distance of about ten miles from Llanfyllin we arrive at

LLANYMYNEICH,

which is very closely connected with North Wales, on account of its situation on the boundary, but it contains one township, Carreg Hwva, which, although detached from it, is yet within the county of Denbigh. The church is dedicated to Agatha, a Romish saint, and, together with the village, stands very beautifully situated on the banks of the Fyrnwy. In the chancel is a monument to the memory of a wife and daughter of George Griffith, Bishop of Saint Asaph, who had been rector of this parish whilst canon of that chapter.—The name of Llanymyneich signifies, according to some, "the Village of the Monks;" but we do not find that any religious foundation was ever established here or in the neighbourhood. The name also signifies "the Village of the Mines." The Montgomeryshire branch of the Ellesmere canal passes through this parish, and crosses the Fyrnwy at the new bridge, by an aqueduct, which was contracted for at the sum of £4500. The range of limestone rock commences at Llanymyneich, in an abrupt precipice 900 feet high. At present the hill near here is valuable for the plenty of copper which it affords, besides zinc, lead, calamine, and a quantity of limestone, sufficient to supply the whole of this county and the greater part of Shropshire. Its copper mines seem to have been well known to the Romans, who for a considerable time worked them to advantage. Some Roman coins, particularly one of Antoninus, Faustina, and others, were also found here, with the skeleton of a man, having on his left arm a bracelet of glass beads, like the druidical rings or beads called *glain neidr* (the *ova anguinum* of Pliny), and near it lay a battle axe.—About fifteen years after the first discovery, other miners found several human bones there, and a golden bracelet encircling the wrist of a skeleton, besides burnt bones and ashes found on several parts of the hill. On the slope of this hill, extending to the top from the bottom, runs a stupendous rampart of loose stones, with a foss at the foot of it, and at a small distance are two others, running parallel, cut in many places through the solid rock. By the hill runs likewise another rampart, called Clawdd Offa, or "Offa's Dyke," thrown up by the King of Mercia in 763, to prevent the incursions of the Welsh, and form their boundary, which continued so till the conquest in 1282. On the eastern brow of the hill once stood a cromlech, measuring seven feet by six, and about eighteen inches thick; it is called by the vulgar Bédd y Cawr, or "the Giant's Grave," and under it, according

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ing to immemorial tradition, a giant's wife was buried, with a golden torques about her neck; and to search for this treasure, three brothers of the name of Paine, who lived in the neighbourhood some years ago, in the most reprehensible manner overturned the stone from its pedestal, and it has since remained prostrate.

In Llanymynech Hill, on the western borders of Shropshire, is a considerable excavation, vulgarly called the Ogo (from the Welsh Ogof, a cave), supposed to have been an ancient mine of the Romans, as very numerous coins of that people are frequently found there. It is now seldom explored farther than the mouth, which is of considerable extent, dark, and dismal, the entrance overhung with the stump and branches of a wych elm, and great fragments have in many places fallen from the roof. Superstition, ever given to people darkness with the progeny of imagination, has assigned inhabitants here, such as knockers, goblins, and ghosts; and the surrounding peasantry aver, with inflexible credulity, that the aerial harmonies of fairies are frequently heard in the deep recesses. Some years ago, all the passages of this subterraneous labyrinth were carefully explored to their extent by J. F. M. Dovaston, Esq. of West Felton. The entrance for about 15 yards is high, but afterwards a person must stoop very low, and sometimes even crawl. It contains many sinuosities, sometimes but a yard and generally about three yards wide, having many turnings and passages connected with each other, so that a ball of thread or chalk is necessary for the greater facility of return. None of the paths go more than 200 yards from the places of entry. Great quantities of human bones are found in many parts, particularly where the cavern becomes wide and lofty. This renders it probable that it has subsequent to the Romans become either a place of refuge in battle or a depository for the dead. The passages are cut through the rock, which is of red lime-stone, whereon frequently appear the marks of chisels, and doubtless it has originally been a ramification of rich veins of ore; for every where appear

> ——————— "the inner vaults of this rude cavern,
> Green with the copper tinge, where pendant glisten
> Curdled stalactites, like frozen snakes,
> Where leathery crust, and vegetable film,
> Hoar with their fungous fringe the dripping roof."

Long passages frequently terminate in small holes about the size to admit a man's arm, as if the metal ran in strings and had been picked out quite clean with hammers and long chisels as far as they could reach. The water that drops in some parts of this cave is of a petrifying quality, and forms stalactites resembling very long icicles, which on being touched ring with a brilliant sound; and the drops of water hanging on the point of each catch the light of the candle, and give the surrounding space a glittering illumination extremely beautiful and in a variety of colours. One finger bone with a ring

upon

upon it was brought away: and about 1750 some miners discovered several human skeletons entire, with culinary vessels, hatchets, and many Roman coins; one had on a bracelet of glass beads, and another a very curious battle-axe beneath his arm; and in a cave at some little distance were found the bones of a man, woman, and child, a dog, and a cat. Tradition says this labyrinth communicated, by subterraneous paths, with Carreghova Castle; and some persons aver that they have gone into it so far as to hear the rivers Fyrnwy and Tanat rolling over their heads, and that it leads down to fairy-land. Mr. Dovaston, however, threaded every passage, and marked each with chalk, except one that was so full of deep water that he could not get his head between the surface and the roof. It is probable that this mine was wrought before the year 790, when the Clawdd Offa was made; for that ditch proceeds from the passage through the hill called Porth-y-Waen, along the brow or summit of these rocks to a place called Bwlch Mawr (the great notch); in that place the dyke leaves its direction on the verge opposite Blodwel Hall, and turns from a southward course to eastward, and fences the south end of the hill in which this copper mine lay to the Welsh side; and it seems that a battle has been fought here in disputing for this mine, or that the very large intrenchments (of which there are three) that run parallel with that of Clawdd Offa eastwardly were made to defend this rich and valuable mine. Persons desirous of gratifying their sight would do well and wisely to ascend from the mouth of the Ogo up to these ridges, immediately over Blodwel Hall, where, suddenly finding themselves on the precipitous rocks of Blodwel, a scene of absolute sublimity and beauty opens at once on the astonished and delightful gaze, perhaps unparalleled, certainly unsurpassed, in all Wales: the summits of innumerable mountains are seen at once rising in every variety of ridge, the distant in softest azure and the near in the most brilliant verdure, with hanging woods, fertile meadows, and the bright rivers Fyrnwy and Tanat uniting in the valley below, and sweeping their sunny waters to join the Severn, under the abrupt and bold rocks of the magnificent Breiddyn. Turning towards England, a perfect contrast is presented in the flat, fertile, and expansive plain of Shropshire, richly wooded, and profuse in luxurious vegetation, terminated by the noble Wrekin and the faintly feeble outline of the very distant hills of Cheshire and Stafford. The scene all around may be safely averred to be one that the dullest mind cannot view without excitement, nor the finest without rapturous and highly increased elevation. On the same hill, and a little below this point of prospect, is the cromlech called the Giant's Grave, before mentioned. On the north-east end are four large stones, which formerly supported on their points a fine flat stone in form of a brandart, called in Welsh "trwbad;" but they are now thrown down. Towards the south-west proceed two rows of flat stones, parallel, six feet

feet asunder and thirty-six in length. On digging here a druid's belt was found, and several other things, also human bones with the teeth perfect. Between the parallel stones a stratum of rude earth was cut through about an inch thick, and being cast on the bank some dogs present eat of it freely: it had the appearance of mummy, and smelt fetid. From the summits above may be seen the small but graceful lake of Llynckllys (sunk palace), the fine and venerable tower of Oswestry church, and in the distance the column and elegant spires of Shrewsbury.

About two miles north of Llanymyneich, on the banks of the Fyrnwy, once stood the castle of Carreg Hwfa, of which no vestige remains except the foss on the east. There is but little account of this place in history, except that in the year 1162 it was taken and despoiled by two cousins-german, Owain Cyveiliog and Owain ap Madoc; it continued in possession of the latter twenty-five years, when he was besieged in it and slain in the night by Gwenwynwyn and Caswallon, sons of Owain Cyveiliog, his former colleague in plunder and devastation. Within half a mile of the castle lies Gwern y vigin, where a battle was fought about the year 1202. To the south-east is Llwyn y Groes, the seat of John Evans, Esq. M. D. the principal resident proprietor in the parish, and son of the worthy and ingenious author of the *Map of North Wales*, which, for correctness and elegance, has transmitted with honour his name to posterity. To the south-west lies Carreg Hwva Hall, formerly the country seat of Sir Thomas Jones, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, and M. P. for Shrewsbury in 1660, and now (1830) the property of Sir T. J. Tyrwhitt Jones, Bart. who has a considerable estate in this parish.—Further to the south-west, on the confines of the parish, is Pentre Heilyn, formerly the seat of the Heilyns, who took this for their cognomen, from their being hereditary cupbearers to the princes of Powis. It seems they were also pursebearers and ministers of finance, and their extravagance of the public money gave rise to the proverb—Hael Heilyn o gôd y wlad—"Heilyn is generous out of the public purse." In the family of Heilyn there were three that will not disgrace our Cambrian biography. The first was Grono ap Heilyn, chosen by the last Llewelyn to treat with the commissioners of Edward Longshanks for concluding a final peace; which was done, and the terms observed for a while, until the oppression of the English became no longer tolerable. Thus driven to the last extremity, despair strung Cambria's bow: Snowdon re-echoed with "Death or Freedom:" its lord fell by the hands of an assassin, and with him expired liberty. The second was Rowland Heilyn, alderman and sheriff of London, who dying in the year 1684 without male issue, one of his daughters marrying a Congreve, the estate was transferred to that family. This Rowland Heilyn was a man of singular goodness: he caused the Welsh Bible to be printed at his own charge, in a portable

a portable volume, for the benefit of his countrymen, which was before only to be had in a large church folio. He also published the *Practice of Piety*, in Welsh, and a Welsh Dictionary. The third was Dr. Peter Heilyn, nephew to the above-mentioned Rowland. The doctor's name and works are so well known that we may say no more respecting him, but that he died in the year 1662.

Under the western brow of this hill lies Abertanat, formerly the seat of the family of Tanat, who adopted their name from the river Tanat, which falls into the Fyrnwy near their seat at Abertanat, for the same reason that the Mostyns, the Glynns, Erddigs, Stanleys, &c. &c. did, namely, to save the redundancy of aps. From the Tanads the Abertanad estate descended to the Godolphins of Godolphin (Coed-Dolffin), in Cornwall.—A little farther towards the north stands Blodwel, formerly a frequent bardic theme when the residence of Gwervul Hael. It is now the property of the Earl of Bradford.

On the road from Welshpool to Machynlleth, at the distance of about three miles and a half from the former place, we pass on our left the village of Castell Caereineon, in a romantic situation between lofty hills. The parish and commot are supposed by some to have been so denominated from Eineon Urdd (or Yrth), tenth son of Cunedda Wledig, King of Cambria, who founded Oswestry in 567; others supposed it to be so called from Eineon Evell, son of Madog ap Meredydd, Prince of Powis, who built a castle here A. D. 1155, on the site of Eineon's camp, which castle was burnt by Owen Cyveiliog in 1166, and not a vestige of which is now to be seen. It stood on an eminence near the village. The church is dedicated to Saint Garmon or Saint Germain, one of the most distinguished of the British saints.—Dolarddyn, where Henry the Seventh is said to have lodged a night, is in this parish; and in the township of Trefnant there is a British encampment.

About four miles further we arrive at Llanvair Caereineon, or Llan Fair yn nghaer Eineon, a small market town, pleasantly situated between hills on the banks of the river Vyrnwy. The finny tribes afford considerable profit and amusement to the inhabitants, who are peculiarly dexterous in the use of the spear and harpoon. The town itself contains nothing very interesting, except the church, dedicated to Saint Mary, which is rather an antique edifice. The market house is tolerably handsome for a structure chiefly composed of wood, and is situate in the centre of the street. The town has within a few years past undergone considerable improvements. There is a well near the church, deemed efficacious in scorbutic complaints.

About five miles from Llanfair is Llanervul, having its church dedicated to Ervul or Ervil, a female saint, whose history is not known. A farm, now let for about £40 a-year, was left by a lady descended from the Herberts of Llysyn, towards the support of a school, in which the poor children of the parish are taught to read and

and write. The ancient chapel at Dolwen is now in ruins. The saint's feast-day or wake (Dydd Gwyl Urvul Santes) used to be celebrated on the Sunday following the 6th of July. Gutto'r Glynn, a poet of the fifteenth century, in his elegy to the memory of Gwervul Hael of Blodvoel, commemorates this female saint in lines of which the following are a translation:—

> **Next to Gwervul of Gwynva, and Urvul the good,**
> **Stands Gwervul of Blodvoel in prudence and blood.**

Urvul is supposed by some writers to be the same as Ursul or Ursula, daughter of the Duke of Cornwall. There is a stone monument in the church-yard, which is supposed by some to have been erected to her memory, but what remains of the inscription does not support this conjecture. It is as follows: HIC IN TUMULO JACIT R—STE—CE FILIA PATERNINI IXIII. IN PA. In *Achaw'r Bonedd y Saint* we meet with Padarn ap Pesrwm (or, according to others, ap Peredur) ap Emyr Llydaw, who was cousin to Cadvan. On the Drum mountain, in this parish, are three pools, viz. Llynn y Grinwydden, having no fish except eels; Llynn Hir, containing excellent red trout; Llynn Gwyddior. or Cadivor, which formerly contained an abundance of fine trout, but a gamekeeper having thrown pike into it, the trout are considerably diminished in number. The lastmentioned lake is on the borders of the parish of Llanbrynmair. A company of adventurers, in the year 1797, began to sink for coals at Govylchau, in this parish, but they were unsuccessful. About the same time a few specimens of copper were dug up at Coed Talog. At Craig y Go, in the same neighbourhood, are ancient traces of mines, supposed to be of Roman origin; and not far off, facing Llanmihangel, is a cave called Ogov Dolanog, which is so narrow that a man cannot go far into it.—Mr. William Jones, a native of Llangadvan, in his *History of the Three Parishes of Garthbeibio, Llangadvan, and Llanervul*, already mentioned, informs us, that near Pont y Llogel there are two carns or carneddau, of different dimensions; the larger one about sixty feet in diameter: the greater part of it was carried off to build Llwydiarth park wall; and the workmen discovered a stone chest (cistvaen) placed in the centre of the heap, which, when opened, was found to contain only pieces of burnt bones and ashes. About a dozen more carns, each from thirty to sixty yards in circumference, are to be met with in these parishes, besides a great number of smaller ones. Some of them are covered with earth, such as those at Nant-brân and near Tygwyn, in Llanervul. Some also are conical, like that at Bwlch y Veden. On a hill near Llanervul is a fortified eminence, called Gardden, a diminutive of Garth, a projecting hill or promontory, where armies generally made intrenchments: this is a circular rampart, inclosing an area of about seventy yards in diameter. A smaller one stands on Moelfeliarth; one also

in

in the township of Maes Llemysten, on the top of a precipice. On the summit of Moparth is a large ditch, and another crosses the Vale of Banwy, near Rhôs y Gall. The most ancient mansion house in this parish is Neuadd Wen: at one time it was the seat of Meredydd ap Cynan, Prince of North Wales, who served the Princes of Powis, and was termed Lord of Rhiw-Hirieth, Coed Talog, and Neuadd Wen. Adjoining Neuadd Wen (formerly called Llys Wgan) lies the capital farm of Llysyn, at one time the estate of Ieuan ap Bedo Gwyn. This property, and other lands in the vicinity, were purchased by the Herberts, Lords of Chirbury, and made the residence of some branches of that family, ancestors of the late Earl of Powis. The word Llysyn seems to be a contraction of Llys-dyddyn, "the Court Farm;" manor courts having been probably held there. The Herberts, when they settled there, formed a park, which they enclosed with pales, but which has since been destroyed. There is a well near the church, called Ffynnon Ervul, which is arched over, with a channel to convey the water to a spout.

After passing over a newly-erected bridge, and at the distance of a little more than a mile, we reach Cann Office, a single public-house, which tradition says had its name from Cannon's Office; for in the time of Cromwell cannon were planted before the house, and there are still remaining marks of intrenchments, on which trees are now planted. Behind the house is a barrow, seemingly of great antiquity, flat on the top, under which the body of some chieftain is supposed to be buried. Several copper tools have been discovered here and in its vicinity. Near this place, on an elevated situation, is Llangadvan, having its church dedicated to St. Cadvan. "The rectory or glebe-house," says Mr. William Jones, "was burnt down by the rebels when Vavasor Powell came to sequester the benefices of the clergy in Montgomeryshire, about the year 1645, and has never since been rebuilt." Since Mr. Jones wrote his historical work of this parish, however, a new parsonage-house has been built here. There has been a small abbey in the township of Cyffin, in this parish, but whether it was independent or the abbot was a suffragan to the Cistercian Abbey of Strata Marcellæ is now uncertain. The townships of Cevn-Llys-ucha, in Llanerful, and Tir-y-Myneich, in Llanbrynmair, belonged to this monastery. After its dissolution they became the property of the Vaughans of Llwydiarth, by a marriage with one of the Purcells of Nantcribba. It stood at a place called Caermyneich, but there are no remains of it at present. Probably the building was constructed entirely of timber (which was not uncommon in those days, when the country was one huge forest), and might have been burnt down or removed at the time of the Reformation. A ford below it, on the river Fyrnwy, is called Rhyd-y-Byde, probably Rhyd-yr-Abadau, "Abbotsford." It is conjectured that the other townships, viz. Cyffin, Cawndd, and Maes-Llemysten might

might have had their own separate chapels-of-ease, or mass-houses, which in all likelihood were served by the monks from the abbey. Near Ffynnon-Gadvan the Saint's Well was lately to be seen, with a heap of large stones, supposed to be the ruins of a building at one time erected over it.

After travelling a short distance along a pleasant road on the banks of the river, we come to Garthbeibio, having a small church on the right, situated on the side of a hill: the church is dedicated to Tydecho, a saint who flourished about the close of the fifth and beginning of the sixth century. The parish consists of only one township, which is situate between the rivers Twrch and Banwy. Tydecho is said to have been one of the sons of Amwn or Annyn Ddû ap Emyr Llydaw, and to have come over from Armorica with his cousin Cadvan: his feast is observed on Easter Monday. One of the incredible fictions related respecting him was, that a brook called Llaethnant (the source of the river Dovey) was by him converted into milk for the use of the poor; in commemoration of which miracle it still bears the name of Llaethnant, "the Milk-stream." The parish derives its name from Garth, "an encampment," and Peibio, "a chieftain," whose history is now lost. The stream of the Twrch and Banwy unite at a small distance below the church. In this parish is a spring of cold water, called Ffynnon Tydecho, supposed to be efficacious in rheumatic and other disorders; and formerly every one who either bathed in or drank of the water dropped a pin into the well, and it was accounted sacrilege to take any of the pins away.

The next village we come to is

MALLWYD, OR MAENLLWYD,

"the Greystone or Rock," partly in Merionethshire and partly in Montgomeryshire. The church is dedicated to Saint Tydecho. The saint's legend, above noticed, is beautifully given by Davydd Llwyd ap Llewelyn ap Gruffydd, Lord of Mathafarn (on the banks of the Dovey), who was very serviceable to Henry the Seventh, having by his writings induced many thousands of his countrymen to resort to the standard of Sir Rhŷs ap Thomas, and join Henry, then Earl of Richmond, at Milford: it is said that Henry slept a night at his house on his way to Bosworth Field. The legend, as related by the bard, is as follows:—He informs us that Tydecho had been an abbot in Armorica, and came over to Britain in the time of King Arthur; but after the death of that hero, when the Saxons overran most part of the kingdom, the saint retired to this spot, and led a most austere life, lying on the bare stones, and wearing a shirt of hair; yet he employed his time usefully, was a cultivator of the ground, and used hospitality. Prince Maelgwyn Gwynedd, then a youth, took possession of the saint's oxen, and carried them from the team; next day wild stags were seen performing their office, and a grey

grey wolf harrowing after them. Maelgwyn, enraged at this, brought his milk-white dogs to chase the deer, while he sat on a blue stone to enjoy the diversion; but when he attempted to rise he found himself immovable and fixed to the rock, so that he was under the necessity of beseeching the saint's pardon, who, on proper reparation being made to him, was so kind as to liberate him from his unpleasant confinement. Thus far the legend. It is not improbable that Maelgwyn Gwynedd was prevailed upon, at the solicitation of the saint, to grant this place, and perhaps some of the other churches dedicated to him, certain privileges, such as sanctuary for man and beast, as every offender, however criminal, was sure to find protection here; it was always exempted from all punishment for fighting, burning, and killing. The lands of Tydecho were likewise exempt from mortuaries, claims, and oppression. This village is small, and situate in the vale of Dovey. In Cae Gwyn is a well, noted for its efficacy in complaints of the eyes. The church is remarkable for having the altar in the middle it: this has been its situation most probably ever since the erection of the building, but why it was so placed cannot at this distance of time be ascertained. It was removed to the east end by one of the rectors, but it was taken to its old situation by Dr. Davies, author of the Dictionary, then incumbent, in opposition to the orders of Archbishop Laud. Dr. Davies was a profound scholar, and assisted Bishop Parry (his brother-in-law) in the translation of the folio Welsh Bible, published in 1620: he died in the year 1644, and was buried in the church. Dr. Davies was the son of a weaver, of the parish of Llanferres, in Denbighshire, of the tribe of Marchudd, and brought up under Bishop Parry in the school at Ruthin, and was afterwards his chaplain. In addition to his Welsh Grammar and Dictionary, he translated the Thirty-nine Articles, and Parsons's (the Jesuit) Resolution into elegant Welsh prose. He built three public bridges at his own charge, and did other charities at Mallwyd, where he resided. Dr. Davies was an useful magistrate, and universally beloved and esteemed. Thomas ap William, the Physician, who lived at Trefriw, near Llanrwst, had begun the Welsh and Latin Dictionary, which Dr. Davies, at the request of the Gwydir family, completed and published. In the churchyard of Mallwyd is a yew-tree, that tradition says is above 700 years old; and it is not easy to imagine a spot where a yew-tree could have witnessed fewer vicissitudes in the objects around during that length of time. The rivers, the rocks, and the mountains are immutable; the woods are the lineal descendants of those that flourished when the yew was planted; and the houses, probably, differ little in number. This yew-tree has nine distinct trunks, one in the centre and eight that surround it, and the circumference of their united branches is computed at upwards of two hundred feet.

A short

A short distance further, we pass through the village of Cemmaes: it is pleasantly situated on the south of the Dovey, on the great road from Bala to Machynlleth. About one-third of the land of this parish is waste or common, and is claimed by the landed proprietors as sheepwalks.

Going towards Machynlleth, on our right, we pass Llanwrin. The village is situate on the north side of the river Dovey, and is the only parish on that side within the county of Montgomery: it is about three miles from Machynlleth, and contains about 2000 acres of enclosed and cultivated land, and as many or more uninclosed and uncultivated. Mathafarn, the seat of Davydd Llwyd ap Llewelyn ap Gruffydd, the bard and seer before noticed, who flourished from 1470 to 1490, is on the banks of the Dovey, in this parish. The Earl of Richmond, in his march from Milford, it is already stated, lodged one night with his friend Llwyd at Mathavarn: in his anxiety for the issue of his hazardous enterprize, he privately requested the opinion of his host, who was esteemed by his contemporaries as a most distinguished prophet. The seer is said to have cautiously replied, that a question of such importance could not be immediately answered, and that he would give his reply in the morning. He was greatly perplexed by the question, and his wife observed an unusual and inexplicable gravity in his manner during the remainder of the evening: she enquired into the cause, and upon being informed, she exclaimed, with much astonishment, "How can you possibly have any difficulty about your answer? Tell him that the issue of his enterprize will be most successful and glorious. If your prediction be verified, you will receive honours and rewards; but if it fails, depend upon it, he will never come here to reproach you." In November, 1644, the Parliamentary forces burnt Mathafarn, and reduced this part of the county to subjection to the Commonwealth, or the protectorate of Oliver Cromwell. About the same time, a military force visited Bala, Dolgellau, Towyn, Merioneth, &c. Mathavarn is now the property of Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, Bart.

Penegos hath its church dedicated to Saint Cadvarch, who flourished about the middle of the sixth century: it is situate on an eminence. This parish is long and narrow, and very mountainous: in a small field near the church there is a spring, which is esteemed very efficacious in rheumatic complaints. In the mountains of Dylifau and Esgair-Galed lead ore is found. According to tradition, this parish derives its name from a petty prince in Wales called Egwest, who was beheaded near the church; but this evidently appears to be a Monkish legend. The name at one time was probably Pen-ŷ-Groes, "the Hill of the Cross."

At the distance of a mile and half we come to

MACHYNLLETH,

MACHYNLLETH,

having its church (lately rebuilt) dedicated to Saint Peter. The town is well built, and preferable in that respect to most in North Wales, the streets being wide and spacious: it is situate about a quarter of a mile from the river Dovey, and about two miles from the shipping port of Derwen Lâs. It is supposed to have been the Maglona of the Romans, and where, in the name of Honorius, a lieutenant was stationed to awe the mountaineers. On the highest part of the hill was the main fort, built in a quadrangular form, and encompassed with a strong wall and broad ditch of an oval form, excepting towards the valley, where it extended in a direct line. On the outside of the river Dovey the foundation of many houses may be discovered, and on a low mount stood a small fort, supposed to have been built of bricks, from the number found at different times. All the outward walls were built of a rough hard stone, carried thither by water from Tal-y-Gareg, distant about seven miles. From the fort to the water side is a hard broad way of pebbles and other stones, continued in straight lines through the meadows and marshy grounds for 200 yards in length, and twelve broad. This fort is thought to have been destroyed previous to the building of Pen-yr-allt church, as we find in the walls of that building several bricks mixed with the stones. Some silver coins of Augustus and Tiberius have been found near the main fort. Owain Glyndwr summoned a parliament at Machynlleth at the close of the year 1402, wherein he was formally inaugurated Sovereign of Wales; and an old house, now divided into several tenements, is shewn as being that in which the parliament was holden. One of those who attended this assembly was Davydd Gam, a chieftain of the county of Brecknock, who came with a design of murdering Owain: his plot being discovered, he was put in prison, but was soon liberated, through the interest of his friends and the promise of future fidelity: this, however, he broke, and in revenge Owain ravaged his land. In the reign of Henry the Fifth this Davydd Gam attended that monarch in his French expedition, and took a signal part in the celebrated battle of Agincourt. Having been employed to reconnoitre the enemy, he reported that there were enow to be killed, enow to be taken prisoners, and enow to run away. He was killed in bravely defending his sovereign at a time when he was in great personal danger: but was knighted on the field before he expired. Ievan Llawdden, an eminent poet, of the vale of Llychwr, in the county of Caermarthen, and who flourished from 1430 to 1470, spent a great part of his life as minister of the church of Machynlleth. In his old age he retired to the place of his nativity, where he died. Llywarch Hén, the princely and aged bard, having lost all his sons and friends in the wars with the Saxons, retired to a hut at Aber Ciog, now called Dôl-Giog, near this

this town, to soothe with his harp the remembrance of his misfortunes, and vent in elegiac numbers the sorrows of his old age. Being, from princely eminence, reduced to a state of poverty and distress, he is said to have died there at the great age of 150 years, about the year 634, and to have been buried at Llanfawr, near Bala, in the county of Merioneth, where, in the west window of the church, is a stone with a suitable inscription. His poems were published in London in 1792, by Dr. W. O. Pughe. The late Rev. Dr. Davies, Head-Master of the Macclesfield Free Grammar School, was a native of this town. Howel Swrdwal, an excellent Welsh bard, was minister here about A. D. 1450. The proper pronunciation of this place is Man-cyn-llaith, "the place at the upper end of the flat or low land."

On our return to Llanfair, we proceed south-westerly about four miles, and come to Llanllugan, probably Llan Lleiain, "the Nun's Church," where there was a nunnery of the Cistercian order, founded about the year 1239. There are no remains of the nunnery at present, except some painted glass now placed in the chancel window of the church. The tithes of several neighbouring parishes were appropriated to its support.

WELSH POOL, OR, Y TRALLWNG,

is a large and populous town, and the appearance of opulence is very predominant throughout the place, perhaps owing to the trade in Welsh flannels, which is carried on here to a very great extent: it may be truly said that the corner stones whereon its prosperity is founded are the flannel trade and the canal. In the centre of its principal street is the new town and county hall, erected by subscription of the landed interest of the county, assisted by a donation from the corporation of nearly four hundred pounds. It was erected in the bailiwick of the late Richard Tudor, of Garth, and Lawton Parry, of this town, Esqrs. about the year 1796: above stairs are apartments for public business, and for the flannel market, held every other Thursday; below are the courts for the distribution of justice, in which the assizes for the county are held twice a year, also the special sessions for the borough; and a court of record for the recovery of debts is held every other Tuesday. It has an elegant front, with colonnades and pilasters of stone, the whole forming an ornament to the town, and exhibiting a proof of the liberality and spirit of the county. In the court are the royal arms and a time-piece, the gift of the late Richard Edmunds, Esq. of Chancery Lane, London, and of Edderton House, in the parish of Forden, in this county. The building was greatly enlarged at the expense of the corporation in the year 1824, when, in the September of that year, the Powis Eisteddfod, a grand musical meeting, was held here, under the patronage of Lord Clive, on which occasion the musical and poetical talents of the principality

cipality were called forth, as in olden time, and the flower of the English vocal and instrumental performers gathered around him. Powis Castle and its dependencies were on this occasion most hospitably and liberally opened for the reception of numbers of noble and distinguished persons, who, attracted by the performances, came from all parts of the united kingdom, and gave an additional brilliance and interest to an event so truly worthy of Cambria's royal ages. The zeal and anxiety which Lord Clive exhibits for the prosperity and happiness of the principality, and for the restoration of its ancient taste and grandeur, were eminently conspicuous in the management of the Eisteddfod, one of those princely and patriotic occasions on which persons of superior rank and influence become still more elevated: since, in benefitting all around them, they cannot fail to add appropriate lustre to their own character and fame. The church of Welsh Pool, dedicated to Saint Mary, is a gothic structure, erected on the site of the old church about the year 1774, singularly situated on a hill, supported by a strong wall fifteen feet high. It is curious to observe, that in the summer months this wall is covered with the choicest flowers of nature—the admiration of all travellers. Part of the church-yard is called the Judge's Hill, from one of the Welsh judges (who died when on the Chester circuit) being buried here; this part of the church-yard is nearly on a level with the roof of the church. The church has, amongst its ornaments, a beautiful chalice of pure gold, containing the measure of a wine quart, with a Latin inscription indicating it to be the gift of Thomas Davies, Esq. in the year 1662, who held the office of Governor-General of all the English Colonies on the West Coast of Africa. This chalice is formed of guinea-gold to the value of £168, bestowed upon this church as a sacred and grateful offering to God for his preservation in that obnoxious climate. There is a new organ, the gift of Lord Clive. In the chancel, under the communion table, is the vault of the noble family of Powis; and an ivy tree grows from the top of this lofty building down to the bottom. Near the church, which, with the church-yard, has recently been much improved, is the newly-erected vicarage. In the principal street stands the public record office, where the records of the county are kept; and from the bottom of the principal street to the river Severn is a beautiful wide public road, lined on each side with elm trees, planted about forty years ago. On the left is a large mound planted with large and venerable trees, supposed to have been the burial-place of some chieftain. Tradition says that the old town stood below the present church on the Salop road; and this is generally believed, as several persons who, within these few years back, were employed in cutting the foundations of some new houses near the canal, found a great quantity of human bones, supposed to have been the burial place, and a little lower down, on the left-hand of

of the road, a regular pavement, similar to a street, was about the same time discovered.

When Cromwell destroyed this town and Oswestry by fire, in one day, it must have been chiefly, if not entirely, built of wood; for in those days the country was so full of large timber that the best and most clefty was used in building. The precincts of the borough include the out-skirts of several of the neighbouring parishes. It is governed by two Bailiffs (who act as Magistrates, and are chosen annually), a Recorder, a Town Clerk, and has two Serjeants at Mace. The maces carried by the latter when in attendance on the Magistrates are the gift of Edward Vaughan, of Llwydiarth, Esq. some of the members of which family formerly represented the county. It would seem from ancient records, that this town has, from a very early period, been an English settlement; as, in the corporation charters, grants of various lands are observed to have been made to the inhabitants for their fidelity to the Kings of England, especially in the troublesome times of Edward the First. The names of many, and language of most, of the inhabitants are, indeed, pure English to this day: whilst, a few miles above, the Welsh language is universal. William Morgan, D.D. the eminent Divine, was Vicar of the parish, afterwards he had Llan Rhaiadar Mochnant, then he was made Bishop of Llandaff in 1595, and was translated to St. Asaph in 1601, where he died in 1604. He had the principal hand in the translation of the Welsh Bible which was printed in 1588. This edition was revised by Richard Parry, D.D. Lord Bishop of St. Asaph, in 1604, corrected by Dr. John Davies, his Chaplain, and reprinted in 1620, and is the version now used, with some slight variations. Morgan was of the tribe of Nefydd hardd, or the handsome. About half a mile from the town, the Severn continues to increase its importance, and is navigable for small barges at Pool Quay, three miles from the town, where it is joined by a rivulet called Gleddin; from thence, taking its direction northwards, receiving in its course Vyrnwy and Tannat, it empties itself into the channel below Bristol, two hundred miles from Welsh Pool. Independent of this conveyance, a canal is made which joins the Ellesmere, passing through Llanymynech, Pool, and Berriew, to Newtown.

"Welsh Pool," says Mr. Pennant, "is a good town, and is seated in a bottom not far from the castle." This place owned the same lord as the castle. Gruffydd did homage for the lordship of Powys at Chester (in 1355) to Edward Prince of Wales, by the title of Lord of Pool: his title was also Frenchified into *De la Pole*." "Betwixt the town and Castell Coch," observes Leland, "is a pretty llyn or pool, whereof the town taketh its name," viz. Tre'r Llyn, "the Pool Town." Along a pleasant road, one mile from hence, is Castell Côch, or Powys Castle, or Castell Côch yn Mhowys, formerly the chief mansion of the Convinian Welsh princes of Powys; from them it went,

went, by marriage with the last Welsh heiress, Hawys Gadarn, to the Charltons of Apley; from them (by marriage) to the Greys; and from the Greys (by sale) to the Herberts, in the possession of whose descendants it still remains. This mansion is of very ancient origin: Blethyn ap Convyn is said to have founded it about the year 1108, in the reign of Henry the First; it is called "Red Castle," from the colour of the material used in its original structure. The castle has recently undergone external and internal improvements at great expense, the front thereof having been considerably raised and several new rooms added. The furniture in several of the rooms is in the ancient style of elegance, and in some of them the antique tapestry is yet remaining. In a detached building, more modern than the castle, is a collection of 60 or 70 pictures. Some of these are by the first masters, as Poussin, Claude, Bassano, Weiger, Canaletti, Cuyp, &c.; the Virgin and Child, by Carlo Dolce; three Owls, by Rubens; and an ancient painting in fresco, from the ruined city of Pompeii; also the portrait of the late Lord Clive, by Dance. In an adjoining closet is the model of an elephant, covered with a coat of mail, with two Indians upon its back, brought from India by the present Earl of Powys. In the centre of the building, through a small court, is a covered walk, supported by four or five pillars: opposite, on entering, is a figure of Hercules, and on the left a handsome staircase, whose walls and ceiling were painted by Lanscrome in 1705. The ceiling represents the coronation of Queen Anne; the figures are well formed, particularly a horse and a man in armour. The walls are mythological ad allegorical, consisting of the figures of Neptune, Amphitrite, Apollo, Venus, Poetry, Painting, Music, Dorcas cutting the Thread of Life, &c. &c. At the bottom of the staircase is a curious marble figure of Cybele sitting and holding a Globe, and is about three feet high, placed on a pedestal of the same height, brought from the ruins of Herculaneum. On the upper part of the staircase is painted the figure of Aurora, by the same artist. On the left-hand is a small parlour; on the right a room, with the pictures of Saint Catherine receiving the ring from Christ, and Sampson betrayed by the Philistines, both excellent paintings. Above stairs, in the tapestry room, over the door, is a fine painting of Cleopatra dissolving the Pearl; and another, well executed, of Venus and Cupid; also a Salutation, very fine, and said to have cost 500 guineas. The tapestries of the sexagon bed-chamber represent several parts of Nebuchadnezzar's life. Here is also a noble gallery, 117 feet by 20; in the window of which is an elegant inlaid marble table, very large, representing birds, &c. also busts of the twelve Cæsars, brought from Italy, larger than life, the vests of composite marble of a yellowish cast; besides a curious copper bust of the famous Lord Herbert of Chirbury. Out of the gallery is a state room, intended for King Charles, whose ciphers are in gold letters in the doors and window panels; but

but the state bed, having gone to decay, has been removed. In the drawing room, which is of considerable dimensions, is a handsome ceiling of plaster of Paris, representing the twelve signs of the Zodiac, with Phœbus in his chariot in the centre; at the corners are the coronet and arms of the family. In a small breakfast parlour are several panels painted with different subjects on canvas, particularly one of David playing on the Harp before Saul; the expression of jealous rage in the countenance is remarkably well executed. The ball-room is spacious, but detached from the house. Lord Lyttelton appears to have been particularly delighted with this place, and observes that £3000 judiciously laid out would render Powys Castle the most august place in the kingdom. Gardens have been laid out with parallel terraces and squared slopes; the ancient water-works and clipped shrubs are removed; the park, formed of spacious and verdant lawns, with swelling hills, extends to Welsh Pool, and is excellently wooded. At the top of this park are distant views of Plinlimmon, Cader Idris, Snowdon, Aran-Mowddwy, &c. and an index is placed pointing to each of them; a road is tastefully conducted to the castle, which is occasionally seen and lost in the approach. The first Lord Powys, created so by Charles the First, obtained this castle (on which 17 manors in this county are still dependant) by purchase in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. In October, 1644, Powys Castle was attacked and taken for the parliament by Sir Thomas Myddelton, and its owner, Percy Lord Powys, taken prisoner, and all his estates sequestered, on account of his attachment to the king's party; but he obtained re-possession by compounding for them, and they have continued with his descendants ever since.

About two miles from Welsh Pool, on the banks of the Severn, in the township of Gungrog Vawr, in this parish, is Ystrad Marchell (Strata Marcella, Alba Domus de Marcella, or Pola), an old monastery. It is stated by one writer, that a Cistercian Abbey was founded here to the honour of God and the Blessed Virgin, A. D. 1170, by Owain Cyveiliog, the son of Gruffydd; but, according to others, it was founded by Madog, another son of Gruffydd. In the beginning of the reign of King Edward the Third, the Welsh monks were removed from this place into English abbies, English monks were introduced here, and the abbey was made subject to the abbot and convent of Buildwas, in Shropshire. According to Dugdale, it was endowed (26th Henry VIII.) with £64. 14s. 2d. per annum. The abbey was constituted chiefly of timber. It is at present the property of the Powis family. Grants of several tracts of land in Cyveiliog and elsewhere were made to this abbey by Gwenwynwyn, son of Owain Cyveiliog, which ultimately became vested in the Pughs of Mathavarn, and afterwards passed by sale to the Wynns of Wynnstay. Mr. Pennant says, "There is no doubt but that the abbey was founded

founded by Owain Cyveiliog, and, as Tanner observes, in 1170; his son, Gwenwynwyn, in 1201, gave to God, the glorious Virgin his mother, and the monks of Strachmarchel, for the repose of his soul, all the pasturage in the province of Cyveiliog. Tanner suspects that Madog ap Gruffydd Maelor re-founded this monastery: but by his charter it should seem he only gave to it a piece of land on which to found a cell, or some appendage to it; and this, he says, was done at the request of four abbots, among whom is mentioned Philip, himself actual abbot of Strachmarchel, a proof that the house was then existing." Cynddelw Brydydd Mawr, bard to Madog ap Meredydd, Prince of Powis, and to Prince Davydd ap Owain Gwynedd, gave so much offence to the monks of this abbey (probably by his writings, which are supposed to have reflected upon their indolence, luxurious mode of life, pretended miracles, and other impositions upon the credulity of the lower classes of mankind), that, when he was upon his death-bed, they sent one of the monks of their society to inform him that his body would not be admitted for christian burial within the precincts of this abbey. Cynddelw wrote some lines in answer, the purport of which was, that as he was not conscious of having committed any heinous offence against God or man, it would have done the members of the abbey more credit to have forgiven his transgression, whatever it was, and to have ordered that his body might be interred in their cemetery, rather than have carried their enmity so far as to refuse him that small, that last boon which he should require —a grave for his ashes.

> My soul, ye Monks, ye would not save,
> Since thus ye grudge my corpse a grave.*

Cynddelw died about A. D. 1170. Adda Vras, a bard and pretended prophet of Is Conwy, was buried in this abbey about A. D. 1250, as was also Gutto 'r Glynn, bard to the abbot of Llan-Egwest, or Valle Crucis Abbey. The latter wrote a pathetic elegy on the death of Llywelyn Moel y Pantri, a native of Llansilin, Denbighshire, who was interred by the side of his brother bard, Adda Vras, about the year 1400. The two first lines begin thus—

> That noble bard is doom'd to dwell
> Within Strat Marcel's narrow cell.

This elegy is still preserved in MS. The abbot who presided at the abbey when Llywelyn Moel was buried, bore the name of Riffri.

Nearly opposite, at the distance of about a mile, on the banks of the Severn, on an elevated situation, is Buttington, having its church dedicated to All Saints; notwithstanding the festival or wake is held on the first Sunday after Old Midsummer Day. The only thing worth notice is the chancel window, which formerly consisted entirely of

* See Myvyrian Archaiology, p. 263.

of painted glass.—There are some remains of encampments on the rising grounds, which are supposed to be of Danish construction. Offa's Dyke passes through this parish. In A.D. 894 the Danes, under Hesten, after traversing a great part of England, took their station here. The generals of King Alfred instantly surrounded and besieged them so closely, that the pagans were obliged to eat their own horses for subsistence. At length, actuated by despair and famine, they attempted to force their way through the Saxon army, but were defeated, with such dreadful slaughter, that very few escaped to their own country. The Breidden and Moel y Golfa hills are in this parish: on the summit of the former is an ancient British camp of Caractacus; and on the centre of the mountain a column is erected to commemorate Admiral Rodney's celebrated victory over the French fleet in the West Indies, on the 12th of April, 1782. On the top of this hill was a large lake never known to be dry, until the scite was lately drained for the purpose of planting. It is also remarkable for a very fine view, which perhaps affords one of the most delightful prospects that is anywhere to be found on the confines of Wales. From here are plainly seen the vales of the Severn, Vyrnwy, and Tanat, and (from its superior height) the view extends over as far as Plinlimmon, Cadair Idris, and Aran-ben-Llyn, whose pointed tops finely diversify the extensive line of horizon. Breiddyn, or Craig-Breddyn, is mentioned by Mr. Evans in his *Specimens of Welsh Poetry*, as a favourite situation of Llewelyn the Great, about 1240. Buttington is called by the Welsh Tâl y Bont, *i. e.* "The Foot of the Bridge," from a bridge crossing the Severn near it. Some of the richest land in the county lies in this parish, particularly along the banks of the Severn.

GUILSFIELD, OR CEGIDFA,

"a place abounding with Hemlock," is situate about 3 miles north of Welsh Pool. It is a neat well-built village, situate in the most fertile part of the county, on the banks of a rivulet called Bele, and surrounded by several plantations and woods far surpassing any in Montgomeryshire. In the centre of the village stands the ancient church, rearing its lofty tower above several venerable elm and yew trees; it is dedicated, according to Mr. Carlisle, to All Saints, but according to Mr. Pennant to Saint Giles, and was first built about the year 1170. It is a gothic structure, and contains many monuments to the memory of the several families hereinafter-mentioned, viz. Egerton of Trelydan Hall, Owen and Lloyd of Trawscoed, Edwards of Burgedin, Mytton of Garth, and one to Brochwel Griffith, of Broniarth, grandson to Dr. John Griffith, Bishop of Saint Asaph, by whose death the family name became extinct. On the family seat of the Lloyds, of Llan-er-Brochwel, is a small brass plate in memory of Richard Lloyd, Esq. who died in 1802. There were formerly several good

good paintings on glass, which modern hands have destroyed: the only one now remaining is a beautiful representation of the Virgin and Child, in one of the north windows; the expression in their countenances is very fine. The church-yard contains many tombstones worth attention.

The Manor of Broniarth, in this parish, contains about 800 acres of unenclosed land, very hilly, on the top of which is a large pool, called Llyn Broniarth, abounding with fish, belonging to the lord of the manor (Major Gore). The following is an extract from a MS. supposed to be a transcript of Bishop Fleetwood's:—"Myvott, Pool, and Gulsfield: these three rectories belong to Christ Church, in Oxford, (a dono Henry VIII.) leased by the College to Sir James Palmer for lives, assigned over by his son, the Earl of Castlemain, to my Lord Powys: they did belong to the Monastry of Strata Marcelli." The Township of Broniarth extends to the bridge over the river Vyrnwy, within a short distance of the village of Meivod. Sir John Oldcastle, who was accused of being a Lollard, secreted himself in an obscure part of this township, where he was discovered by Sir Edward Charlton, Lord Powys, and delivered over to the fury of the inquisition of those times. George Griffith, D.D. made Bishop of St. Asaph at the Restoration, was born at Broniarth Hall, in this township. Lord Cobham, "says Lord Orford," was the first author, as well as first martyr, among our nobility: a man whose virtues made him a reformer, whose valor a martyr, whose martyrdom an enthusiast. He was suspended by a chain fastened round his waist over a slow fire: this torturing death he bore with constancy; and with his last breath conjured Sir Thomas Erpingham, that if he should see him rise from the grave in three days, he would then intercede with the king in favour of his brethren, the Lollards. The lordship of Broniarth (according to Mr. Yorke) was granted to the family of Tanad, of Aber-Tanad, the fifth of Henry the Fifth, for the assistance they gave in the apprehension of Oldcastle. In it is a field called, to this day, Lord Cobham's garden. Sir Gruffudd Fychan, Lord of Byrgedwyn (Burgedin), Treflydan (Trelydan), Garth, and Caerfawr, in the opening of the fifteenth century, with his elder brother Ieuan, are parties to a deed in the possession of the late Devereux Mytton, of Garth, Esq. (1797): whereby Edward Charleton, Lord of Powys, granted them several privileges for assisting in taking Sir John Oldcastle, in the third of Henry the Fifth, when the king himself was absent in France. From Dafydd Lloyd, eldest son of Sir Gruffudd, were descended the Lloyds of Llai, of Murrington, &c.; from Cadwaladr, the second son, the Lloyds of Maesmawr, of Rhandir, and Humphrey ap Roger of Treflydan; Reinallt, his third son, according to the ancient Welsh custom, under his claim as the youngest, had the family house at Garth. His grandson, John ap Gruffudd ap Reinallt, was the first who took the name of Wynn. "Humphrey Wynn, son of John Wynn

Wynn of this house, was living in the year 1560." The sixth in descent from Humphrey married Dorothy, daughter of John Powel, Esq. of Worthen, and had issue an only daughter Dorothy, married to Richard Mytton, Esq. of Pont-is-Cowryd, a branch of the Myttons of Halston, in the county of Salop. At the upper end of this township is a small piece of land enclosed with a stone wall, and planted with poplar trees, called "the Quakers' burial ground," belonging to the Society of Friends, but it has not been used as a burial-ground within the memory of man.

Rhyd Esgyn; i. e. "the Ford of Ascent or Attack." This township consists of the richest land in the county; it is situate on the Severn, and is one of the few places at which this river is fordable hereabouts. Immediately opposite, to the south-east, is a strong British encampment, with vast ramparts of loose stones. About two miles north of Guilsfield, on a hill called Gaervawr, is a small British encampment; but by some it is supposed to be a Roman encampment. There can, however, be little doubt that a battle was fought between the British and Romans in the plains of Varchoel, as part of a Roman ensign has been found there. At the upper end of this parish is a hill, comprising nearly 60 acres, called Moel-y-Garth, which runs in a direction contrary to all other hills (it is believed) in the kingdom. The township of Llan-er-Brochwel, or Llanerch-Brochwel; i.e. "The portion or demesne of Brochwel:" the mansion house of this name stands at the commencement of this township, and is supposed to have been formerly the residence of Brochwel, a descendant of one of the Powisian princes. There are a few houses in this township, called Bwlch Aeddan, derived from Bwlch, "a pass between the hills," which was entrenched in former times, and Aeddan, "a chieftain," who probably raised the fortifications. The township of Trêf-Edryd is the uppermost and most mountainous in the parish: it is separated only by the south branch of the Vyrnwy from the ancient castle of Mathrafal.

At the distance of three miles and a half from Welsh Pool, on the road to Montgomery, we pass the village of Forden, near which is Nant-y-Criba, the seat of the present Viscount Hereford (now tenanted by Colonel Davies, of Marrington), near which is a British encampment, the only remains whereof is a large tumulus. The Danes wintered in this neighbourhood in the year 894. The encampments are visible on the Long Mountain and near Buttington. At the Gaer, in the township of Thornbury, is a Roman camp on the Severn; with British encampments to the south-west, on the rising grounds. The House of Industry of the United District of Montgomery and Pool, which is an expensive fabric, erected about the year 1795, is situate in this parish.

About two miles and a half further we arrive at

MONTGOMERY,

situate on a gentle ascent; at the back of which is another, called the Town Hill, whereon stood the castle, from the ruins of which a fine view presents itself of the vales of the Severn and Chirbury, Powis Castle, and Marton Pool. The town is clean and well-built, and inhabited chiefly by persons of moderate fortune, who lead a life of retirement. This town in the year 1700 was little more than a village, though now capable of affording all the comforts of life, without any of the bustle of larger towns. It is situate in a fertile vale, decorated with lively scenery, indicating population and fertility. The town is represented in Parliament by one member; the bailiffs are the returning officers: it was incorporated in the reign of King Henry the Third, and is governed by a high steward, two bailiffs, and twelve burgesses or common-councilmen. The towns of Machynlleth, Llanidloes, Llanfylliu, and Welsh Pool were formerly contributory boroughs. The church of Montgomery is a handsome cruciform structure, dedicated to Saint Nicholas, and ornamented with a handsome monument of Richard Herbert, Esq. father of the celebrated Lord Herbert, first Lord Herbert of Chirbury. He is represented in armour; and near him is a recumbent figure of his wife Magdalene, daughter of Sir Richard Newport, of High Ercall. In front are statues of their numerous offspring. The monument was erected by his lady, who survived him several years. After discharging her duty to her children, she married (at the end of twelve years) Sir John Danvers, brother to Henry Earl of Danby, and died in 1627. The house called Black Hall, once the residence of the Herberts, stood at the lower end of the town, but it has long since been destroyed by fire; a deep fosse, however, shews its ancient scite. The lodge in Lymore Park, a short distance from the town, was enlarged after this accident, and now presents a venerable wooded front. The remains of the castle, situate on an eminence north of the town, show the original to have been a very grand building, but at present so much demolished that the foundation cannot be traced with any degree of accuracy; it stood on a rock quite precipitous on one side, and sufficiently high to command the whole place; but now the only remains are the small part of a tower at the south-west corner, with a few low and broken walls. In the year 1094 this castle was taken by the Welsh; and many were the skirmishes at different times for the possession of the place. In the year 1231 it was taken and burnt by Llewelyn Prince of Wales, who inhumanly put the whole garrison to the sword. By whom it was again re-edified subsequent to this period is uncertain; but that it did not long remain in its ruined condition is clear, from the circumstances of a conference being held there in 1268, when a peace was concluded between England and Wales, through the mediation of Ottoboni, Pope Clement's Legate in Britain. After this, no event of material

consequence

consequence immediately connected with the history of this place happened till the era of the civil wars in the reign of Charles the First, when Lord Herbert, the then proprietor of the castle, garrisoned it for the king; but was so much intimidated at the approach of the parliamentary forces, that he wrote to their general, Sir Thomas Myddelton, declaring his readiness to join the republican standard, which he accordingly did. The advance of the royal forces under Lord Byron, however, soon after rendered it prudent for Sir Thomas to retire to Oswestry, leaving only a very small garrison in the castle; but having been there reinforced by Sir William Brereton, Sir John Meldrum, and Sir William Fairfax, he again marched back to its relief, when a most desperate engagement ensued, in which the royalists, though much superior in numbers, were completely defeated. The castle subsequently met with the same fate as most of those which had at any time declared for the king, being dismantled by order of the House of Commons, and never again repaired. The town was anciently surrounded by a wall, evident marks of which still remain. In Leland's time great part of this wall was standing; and that writer mentions four gates then in ruins,—"Kedewen Gate, Chirbury Gate, Arthur's Gate, and Kerry Gate;" and also some remains "of broken turrets," of which the white tower was "the most notable;" but only a few traces of these are now left. On the same side of the town as the castle, but at a short distance, is a stupendous encampment, which probably has been a British post: the situation is on the summit of a lofty hill, sufficiently defended on one side by its abrupt ascent, and on the more accessible parts by deep fosses, which run directly across it; the approach was further defended by four shorter fosses, having two entrances communicating with the main work. In the vale between this hill and that on which the castle stood are the remains of a small fortification, which Mr. Evans conjectures to have been the site of the fortress built by Baldwyn, because "partaking of the Norman manner in design and shape." A grant of Edward the First was given to Bogo de Knovill, Constable of the Castle, allowing him to sell certain wood on Corndon Forest, for repairing the walls and fosses round the town and castle; and a grant for the same purpose was given by Edward the Third, permitting a toll for seven years on several articles which were brought there for sale, among others squirrel skins. The first burgess that was summoned to parliament was in the 27th of Henry the Eighth. The name of William Herbert is first on the list in the year 1542. The County Gaol here is a new and commodious structure; as is also the Town Hall, which stands in the centre of the principal street. This latter is a handsome brick building, erected on arches; underneath is the market-place, above is a large room for public business, and courts of justice, in which the business of the Corporation is transacted and the Quarter Sessions for the County held.

Near

Near this town is the famous mountain called Cefn Digol, celebrated for having been the spot where the last contested battle was fought between freedom and oppression, or where the heroes of the fallen principality gave their expiring groans: it was a desperate engagement, in which Madog, prince of this country, was defeated and slain.

About three miles east of Montgomery is Chirbury, which, although not in the county of Montgomery, is situate so near to the borders of Wales, and so connected by historical events, that it is requisite here to give an account of it. It is a handsome village, and here was formerly a castle and monastery, supposed to have been built by Ethelfleda, a Mercian lady, and it gives the title of baron to the Powis family, having been so first attached in the person of the celebrated Edward Lord Herbert of Chirbury. Chirbury Priory was founded in the reign of King John, for monks of the order of Saint Bennet; and at the general dissolution it was granted to Edward Hopton and his wife Elizabeth, but the rectory and parsonage were soon afterwards bestowed on the Grammar School in Shrewsbury. In the 7th of Edward VI. this hundred was given by the crown to Edward Herbert and his heirs; but Charles the First, in the 3d year of his reign, permitted Sir Edward Herbert to dispose of it to William Neye and Thomas Gardiner, Esqrs. of Chirbury. Chirbury was called by the Welsh Llan Ffynnon Wen, "the Church of the White Well." By a composition between friar Philip and the rector of Montgomery, the right of burials and christenings was reserved to the church of Chirbury. The same year the prior had a grant of the tithes of Montgomery wood and mill. In 1280 the prior and convent removed to Snede, the place of their first constitution and abode, it being represented that Chirbury was not a proper place for celebrating divine mysteries; but this removal, it was observed, was not to affect the souls of those buried at Chirbury, to whom they were bound to do the same services as before the removal; neither were the religious to be deprived of any of their rights at Chirbury. This house maintained a prior and six monks, and its revenues were near £80. The last prior was Oliver Middleton, of Middleton Hall, in this parish, who had a pension for life of £8 per annum.

Between Hope's Gate and Lady House (both of which are in the parish of Worthen, in the county of Salop), adjoining the turnpike road, is a British tumulus, upon which several oak trees seem to flourish, and to protect the ashes of some warriors, whose history is as silent as their dust.

In the township of Marton is a very fine sheet of water, called Marton Pool, covering near fifty-four acres of land; the depth is in some places very great, and the circumference is nearly a mile and half, and it abounds with very large fish, and out of it run three rivulets.

In

In the vicinity of Montgomery is the parish of Churchstoke, called by the Welsh Yr Ystoc, having its church dedicated to St. Nicholas. Part of this parish is in the county of Salop; the tithes belong to the hospital of Clun. The vale of Churchstoke is watered by two streams, called the Camlet and the Ceibutrach, besides other smaller brooks, which all unite within the parish, and proceeding through the much-admired Marrington Dingle, enter the Severn to the north of Forden. In it are several tumuli or barrows, and the remains of an old fortification called Symmond's Castle. In the memoranda of the civil war in North Wales, written in the time of Mr. William Morris, of Llansilin, and published by the Rev. Walter Davies, in his History of Llansilin, in the Cambro-Briton, vol. 1, p. 464, there appears the following paragraph:—"February 23, 1646. The Montgomeryshire forces began to fortify Llansilin Church, for the straightening and keeping in of the Chirk Castle men, where Sir John Watts was governor, who shortly after deserted the castle, and, marching towards the king's army with all his garrison, were taken by the men of Montgomery Castle, after a hot bickering in Churchstoke Church, the first day of March, 1646."

About four miles west of Bishop's Castle, Shropshire, is the small village of Hyssington. The incumbent of Churchstoke presents to the curacy of Hyssington, and the tithes are appropriated. Prior to the Reformation they belonged to the priory of Chirbury, and afterwards they became the property of Edward Powell, Esq. The present church was built within the precincts of a castle now in ruins. Upon one of the bells is the following inscriptiou in antique characters:—"Sancta Ethelreda ora pro nobis." The parish of Hyssington is within the manor of Halcetor: it was formerly dependant on the priory of Chirbury.

Corndon hill, in the parishes of Churchstoke and Hyssington, rises to a considerable height, and out of its quarries are dug vast quantities of slabs, flags, &c. On the top of the hill are four carneddau, forming a circle of near 90 feet.

Five miles from Welsh Pool, on the road to Newtown, we leave on our right Berriew, or Aber Rhiw. The parish is very large, and abounds with gentlemen's seats. The church, dedicated to Saint Beuno, has lately been re-built, and is a very handsome structure. About a mile from the church, near the river Severn, is Maen Beuno (Beuno's Pillar), a large stone commemorating the patron saint. In Bishop Fleetwood's MSS. we find the following note:—"R. de Berrew concessa per Anianum Ep'um Asaph, Abbot et Conventii de Pola, A. D. 1265: passed from the Crown about 30th Anno Regn. Elizabetha, now in the inheritance of John Blayney, Esq." Vaynor Park and Glansevern were formerly the property of the family of Devereux, Viscount Hereford: the former is now in the possession of Mrs. Winder, the latter of William Owen, Esq. Barrister-at-law and King's

King's Counsel. Near the village is Rhiewport, the seat of Wythen Jones, Esq. The Montgomeryshire Canal passes near to the village of Berriew, and crosses the Severn over a large aqueduct; and a new and handsome bridge has lately been built over the same river, at the joint expense of those gentlemen whose property lies in its vicinity.

In a valley not far from this place is Bettws Church, situate on the banks of the rivulet Bechan. It is called Bettws-y-Cedwg, and is dedicated also to Saint Beuno, and formerly belonged to Llanlligan, a Cistercian nunnery, founded about 1239, and valued at the dissolution at £22. 14s. 0d. The steeple is very handsome, and was built by John Meredith in 1531.

On the right of our road from Welsh Pool to Newtown, in this parish, is Castle Dolforwyn, or "the Meadow of the Virgin," about three miles from the latter place. The undulations of surface which this tract exhibits are beautiful to the admirers of landscape, but too abrupt in the opinion of agriculturists; the soil, however, is grateful, and yields good grain. The castle stands on a woody steep on the north-west bank of the river Severn, and commands the whole of the surrounding country: it was, according to some, built by Bleddyn ap Cynvyn between 1065 and 1073; according to Dugdale, it was the work of Davydd ap Llewelyn, a prince who reigned from the year 1240 to 1246; but it is referred by a Welsh writer, John Dafydd Rhŷs, to a much earlier date. It was of a quadrangular form, of no great extent, being about fifty yards long and twenty feet wide, with walls nearly four feet thick: a small part of the north wall with some trifling remains of the interior are yet left, but the south and east walls are entirely demolished, and the other parts now standing are in so shattered a condition that a strong wind would probably level the whole with the ground. The princes of Wales, in their contests with the Saxons and Normans, seem to have made no use of this fortress; and it could not long be tenable for want of water. Some antiquities and several coins have been dug out of the ruins: but the date of the coins is not known: they were formerly preserved at Gregynog, the seat of Charles Hanbury Tracy, Esq. in the adjoining parish of Tregynon.

On our left we cross the Severn, over a wooden bridge, to the parish of Llandyssil, having its church dedicated to Tysilio, a saint who lived about the middle of the sixth century.

On the left of our road is Llanmerewig, or Llan-yn-Merewig, "the church or village on the Deer's hill:" in the Myvyrian Archaiology it is called Llamyr-ewig, "the Deer's Leap," to which a silly legend is attached; but the derivation of which more probably is Bre-ewig, "the Hill of the Hind or Deer." The church is dedicated to Llwchaiarn, a saint who lived about the beginning of the seventh century.

On

On the left of Llanmerewig is Llanllwchaiarn (also called Uwch-Aſſes), having its church likewise dedicated to the before-mentioned Saint. It is a modern building on the banks of the Severn, about a mile north-east of Newtown. On the south-east side of the parish are the vestiges of a Roman road; and at a short distance from the church on the south side, on the opposite bank of the Severn, are the remains of a small intrenchment.

NEWTOWN, OR TRENEWYDD,

was formerly called Llan-Fair-Ynghedewain, or "Saint Mary's in the Cantref of Cydewain." It is a well-built town, situate in a beautiful vale, enriched by the Severn, and bounded on each side of the river by moderate hills generally mantled with wood, which cannot fail to render it a delightful situation for a residence. It is not an incorporated town. Camden observes "Caersws was at one time a market-town and borough privileged; but having fallen into decay, Newtown was built about four miles lower down the river, and was called by the Welsh Y Dre Newydd, or Newtown, in reference to the older one Caer Sws, or Caer Llews." Of late years, from the extraordinary increase of its population owing to the improving state of its flannel manufactures, it has become a flourishing town of considerable wealth and consequence. The flannels made in this town, which exceed in quantity all that are manufactured in the rest of the county, are sent down to Welsh Pool for sale to a market held there for that purpose every other Thursday. Several new manufactories have lately been erected on the Severn, whose course forms the arch of a circle on the northern skirt of this place. The town-hall is an old brick building standing in the middle of the street. The church (dedicated to Saint Mary) is an antique edifice, consisting of a nave and chancel, having in the latter a marble table, and in the wall contiguous a small monument for Sir John Pryce, Bart. Near it is an elegant gilt partition in the church, containing various curious devices, and an antique font, reported to have been brought from Abbey Cwm Hir; also a beautiful screen, brought from thence by Sir Matthew Pryce. Newtown Hall, formerly the seat of the Pryces, now of their descendant and representative, the Rev. G. A. Evors, is, at present, owing to the increase of houses, situate within the town. Its former owner, Sir John Pryce, was a gentleman of worth, but of extraordinary eccentricity. The family was settled at Newtown Hall about the time of Henry the Sixth, and was of great antiquity. Their ancestor Rhŷs was an Esquire of the Body to Edward the Fourth. The male line of Newtown ended in Sir Edward Manley Pryce, Baronet, who died a bachelor. His father, Sir John Powell Pryce, married a Manley of Manley. This gentleman was accustomed to follow the hounds many years after he had totally lost his sight, and would run the risk of some dangerous leaps. Sir John Pryce,

Pryce, grandfather to the last Baronet, married three wives: his first a Powel, grand-daughter of Sir John Powel, one of the Justices of the King's Bench in the reign of James the Second, who eminently signalized his integrity and resolution in the case of the seven bishops. To the memory of his second wife, a Morris, Sir John Pryce wrote an elegy of a thousand lines, still extant; in which he affirms, that with his last breath he would lisp Maria's name; but he forgot his vow, and was soon smittten with the charms of a Widow Jones. This lady would not give her hand to Sir John until he had entombed her predecessors, who had, till that time, lain in state and chemical preparations in his bed-chamber. He survived this wife also, and on her death he wrote to Bridget Bostock, the Cheshire Pythoness, to know if she could not restore her to life.

KERRY, OR CERI,

is a small village three miles south-east of Newtown, pleasantly situate on a gentle eminence in the vale of Kerry, encompassed by hills, rich vallies, fruitful fields, good pastures, and extensive plantations both useful and ornamental. The name implies "the Mountain Ash," with which the district, probably, in former times, abounded. It is the opinion of some etymologists, that the word Ceri is a corruption of Caeriau, *i. e.* "Fortified Places," the remains of which are numerous in this parish, particularly one called The Moat, about a mile and a half from the church, which, from its unfinished state, is believed to be one attempted to be erected by Henry III. The ancient name of the church was Llanfihangel-yn-Gheri, or "the Church dedicated to Saint Michael." The wake is kept on the Monday succeeding Michaelmas-day. The chapel of Gwernygo, which was formerly supported by the tithes of that township, is now in ruins, and the township (being tithe-free) pays a modus of four pence to the vicar of Ceri. In the centre, and along a gradual ascent to the opposite declivity, are erected, in one tolerable street, the houses which constitute the village, having its venerable church contiguous with the principal habitations, and situate nearly in the centre of the parish. This church was rebuilt, according to Giraldus Cambrensis, in the year 1176; the superstructure consists of a quadrangular tower or belfry, terminating in regular turrets, from whence may be had an extensive view of the country, finely diversified with wood, water, and their picturesque concomitants; the internal part has two aisles, divided by three or four heavy gothic arches, and opposite are some pointed windows: of its monuments only one claims attention, which is of white marble, and erected in the chancel, to perpetuate the memory and donations of Richard Jones, Esq. late of Greenwich, in the county of Kent, formerly a purser in the royal navy, but a native of this parish. He was born at Black Hall, about two miles from

from the village, in 1723, and died November 3d, 1788. The school house is situate in the centre of the street, and supported by benefactions, and principally that of Mr. Jones, the annual interest whereof amounts to £154. There are at present, on the foundation, in the daily school, 120 boys and girls, educated and partly clothed. The Sunday school is open to all the children of the parish, and to encourage their attendance, they are allowed bread and cheese by the will of the founder. The parish of Ceri must have formed part of the property which was given by Elystan Glodrydd, Lord of Ferregs and Maelienydd, to his second son Morgeneu. Llewelyn ap Iorwerth gave the Lordship of Ceri and Cydewain as a marriage portion with his daughter, Gwladus, the widow of Reginald de Breos, Lord of Brecknock, to Reginald Mortimer, Lord of Maelienydd, who (about the year 1242) built the castles of Cefn Llŷs and Cnwclâs. According to Matthew Paris, Ceri was the scene of the successful resistance of Llewelyn ap Iorwerth to King Henry the Third. The English monarch, after his irruption into the borders, led his army into the vale of Ceri, to a place corruptly called Cridia, having in his march compelled the Welsh to raise the siege of Montgomery. At Ceri much time was lost in cutting down a wood of vast extent, which frequently protected the Welsh from the incursions of the English, in the centre of which was a fort or castellated mansion, serving the inhabitants as a place of security against the sudden attacks of the English. This mansion King Henry took and demolished; but finding the site of it very strong and almost inaccessible, he, by the advice of Hubert de Burgh, laid the foundation of a castle on the same spot: but Llewelyn so harassed the English during its erection, by intercepting their convoys and cutting off their foraging parties, that Henry, after three months' labour and much expence, was glad to agree to a truce, the conditions of which, on his part, were, the levelling of the works which he had constructed, called Hubert's Folly; and on the part of the Welsh prince, to pay three thousand marks for the materials, and consenting to do homage for the lordship of Ceri. William de Breos, Lord of Brecknock, was taken prisoner at Ceri in one of these rencounters, for whose liberation Henry made no stipulation. Ceri belongs to the see of Saint David's, which is probably owing to the activity and courage of Giraldus Cambrensis, also the adjoining parish of Mochtref, and likewise probably great part of the county of Radnor. Giraldus, at that time Archdeacon of Brecknock, having heard that the Bishop of St. Asaph had claimed, and had called upon the inhabitants of Powys and Cydewain to assist him in taking possession of the church of Ceri by force, if necessary, he (Giraldus) summoned the clergy of Radnor to meet him at Ceri, and prevailed also upon Eineon Glŷd and Cadwallon, two reguli of that county, to furnish him with a body of horse, and support him in defending the rights of the see of Saint David's. Thus assisted, he arrived

arrived at Ceri before the bishop, tolled the bells, and said mass. On the bishop's approach, he prohibited his entrance to the church unless he came as a friend. On the bishop's persisting to take possession of the church, Giraldus, accompanied by the rest of the clergy, met him in procession with tapers, and, carrying the cross, threatened him with excommunication, upon which he departed much mortified. The usual traces of entrenchments and fortified places still remaining in the parish prove it to have been a scene of warfare in former ages, and are strong evidences of the truth of the preceding history. But the almost total change of the language from that of Welsh to English within the last century, prevents any advantage being derived from tradition respecting the history and antiquities of this parish.—Trefên, in this parish, was the residence of the Rev. Thomas Jones, a very eminent lecturer at Trinity College, Cambridge, and who was born at Berriew on the 23d of January, 1756.

The parish of Mochdrev, or Mochtrêf, was anciently a part of the cwmwd of Ceri. The same district constituted also the lordship and manor of Kerry. The etymology of Mochdrev is very uncertain. It is a perpetual curacy; the patron is the prebendary of Mochdrev, to whom the great tithes belong. It is valued in the king's books at £1. 8s. and it was one of the twenty-four prebends with which Thomas Beke, Bishop of Saint David's about the year 1287, endowed the college of St. Mary's at Abergwyli in Carmarthenshire. This was afterwards transferred by Henry VIII. to the dissolved house of the mendicant friars at Brecon, called the College of Christ Church. The church, dedicated to All Saints, is a plain, simple building, with a wooden tower. The village consists of a few straggling houses adjoining the church, and is distant from Newtown about two miles and a half. The whole parish is very uneven, but picturesque: its form is semicircular, surrounded by high hills. It was, at no very distant period, like the neighbouring parish of Kerry, and the Severn vale, covered with wood. As Mochdref and Kerry formed one cwmwd, and were always united under the same reguli, they underwent the same changes, and the historical notices referring to the one generally apply to both. From an anonymous poem in the Myvyrian Archaiology, which contains the characteristics of many parts of Wales, it may be gathered that the inhabitants of Mochdrev were in former times noisy and quarrelsome, and that Ceri was famous for mead-horns. As the mead-horns have disappeared, and a happy change has taken place in the circumstances of the people, who as borderers were always exposed to hostile excursions, it might be expected that peace and security would be followed, as in fact they have been, by the happiest effects. Mochdrev and Ceri are the only parishes in the county of Montgomery which belong to the see of Saint David.

About six miles from Newtown, on the road to Llanidloes, is Llandinam.

Llandinam. The church is dedicated to Llonio, a saint of the congregation of Illtyd, in the middle of the sixth century. It is situate on an eminence, beyond which there is a remarkable intrenchment, called Y Gaer Vechan, which name may signify "the lesser city," or "the lesser fortification."—Penhalog, otherwise Banheglog or Banadlog, is a chapel-of-ease to Llandinam, and has been recently rebuilt and neatly fitted up for the performance of Divine Service.

At a short distance is the parish of Llanwnog, having its church dedicated to Gwynog, a saint of the congregation of Catwg, in the middle of the sixth century. Part of the window above the altar in this church is painted glass, on one pane of which is represented St. Gwynog, attired in his episcopal robes, with a mitre on his head, his name being written underneath in old Saxon characters.

Caersws, now only a small hamlet, situate on the Severn about five miles above Newtown, appears to have been a town of considerable antiquity, as already noticed in treating of the Roman stations in this county.

At the distance of nine miles from Newtown we arrive at

LLANIDLOES,

or the church of Idloes, a saint who lived about the middle of the sixth century. It is a small town, pleasantly situated near the Severn, with a few spacious streets, which are built generally very irregular, and the whole town contains very few good houses. This place, like most towns in North Wales, is built in the form of a cross, indicating a Roman origin, having its market-house in the centre. Of public buildings, the principal is its ancient church, the body resting on five arches, surrounded with neat pillars, ending in capitals of palm leaves: these, the inhabitants affirm, were brought from Abbey Cwmhîr, in Radnorshire. There is a date on the roof of 1542; after which soon followed the dissolution of monasteries in Great Britain. Llanidloes has a considerable market for yarn and flannels, which are manufactured to a great amount, and carried to Welsh Pool for sale. The town was once a contributory borough with Welsh Pool and Llanfyllin. Near the town are several extensive sheepwalks; and in the neighbourhood an excellent quarry of coarse slate. The river Clywedog falls into the Severn near the town. In the vicinity is Berthllwyd, an old mansion belonging to the ancient family of Lloyd; and on the north side is a small lake, called Llyn-yr-Afanc, or "Lake of Beavers," which animals are said to have been very numerous here.

About five miles from Llanidloes, on the road to Aberystwith, is Llangurig, having its church dedicated to Curig, a saint who came into Wales about the seventh century. The village is situate near the Wye, on the south-eastern side of Pumlumon, in a very barren and mountainous part of the county.

Llanbrynmair, or "the church on the hill of Saint Mary," to whom the

the church is dedicated. The hills and mountains in this parish are very extensive, and are used for the pasture of horned cattle and sheep. In the township of Pennant is a very fine waterfall, called Ffrwd-Fawr (the great water-spout or catacract), which is much admired, particularly after heavy rain, when an immense body of water falls 45 yards perpendicular. A tradition prevails, that at a place called Tal-Erddig was formerly a chapel-of-ease, but there are no remains of it at present. The road from Newtown to Machynlleth passes through the village, which is situate nine miles east of the latter town. This is considered the best and most romantic road for travellers to take on their journey in the summer months to Aberystwith, for whose accommodation a large new inn has lately been built. Humphrey David ap Evan, parish-clerk of Llanbrynmair about the year 1600, was an excellent Welsh bard.

In the township of Rhiw Saeson, *i. e.* "the Clift or Ascent of the Saxons," is Rhiew Saeson House, which gives name to the township. It was formerly the property of the family of Owen, who, with the Pryces of Newtown, were descendants of Elystan Glodrydd, head of one of the five royal tribes of Wales. In the last century the mansion and estate were conveyed by sale to the Wynns of Wynnstay. Some attribute the great number of English surnames in the parish of Llanbrynmair and the neighbourhood to a regiment of soldiers who were quartered at Machynlleth during the Protectorate, and disbanded at the Restoration. In whatever manner, however, or period, these English settlers came to Cyfeilioc, their descendants still retain their surnames, though they have changed their language, several of them scarcely knowing a word of English. Some of the foreign names here are Webster, Baxter, Tibbot, Swancoat, Jervis, Meddins, Bebb, Stubb, Tanner, Jerman, &c. William Baxter, author of the *Glossarium Antiquitatem Romanarum*, was of this tribe, and was born at Llan Llugan, in this county. In the township of Tafel Wern, in this parish, was the mansion of Owain Cyveilioc and Gwenwynwyn, Princes of Powys. It is called Walwern Castle, and a tumulus still shews its site, about two miles from the church.

Dar Owain ("the Oak of Owain") is situate about six miles east of Machynlleth, betwen the Llanbrynmair and Mallwyd roads. The wake, or feast of dedication to Tudyr, the patron saint, is annually observed on the 25th day of October, or the first Sunday after. The diversion is kept on Monday by what is called Curo Tudyr, or "the Beating of Tudyr," which is done in this manner: one of the lads carrying a long pole or branch of a tree upon his shoulder, the other lads beat it with their clubs. About the distance of half a mile west of the church, on the top of a hill called Fron Goch, in the township of Caer Seddfan, are the remains of an ancient camp, and on the top of another hill opposite to it on the north side, being part of a farm called Berllan Dêg, "the Fair Orchard," several warlike instruments

of

of brass were discovered some years ago. According to Ecton, Darowen vicarage was erected by Bishop Robert Parsons, A. D. 1545, at the request of Richard ab Gruffydd, rector.

Carno is situate about nine miles west of Newtown, and eight miles north of Llanidloes. The church is dedicated to Saint John the Baptist. Carno mountain is rendered remarkable by several battles fought there and on the hills contiguous, particularly in the year 949, when Ievaf and Iago defeated the sons of Howell ddâ, and wasted Dyfed. Likewise, in the year 1097 according to some authors, according to others 1082, when a bloody and decisive battle was fought on the mountains of Carno between the Princes of North and South Wales, wherein Trahairn ab Caradoc, prince of the latter, was slain, and Gruffydd ab Cynan put in possession of the throne. The word Carno is probably derived from Carnau, the large heaps of stones on the neighbouring mountains.

Llanwddin, or Llanowddin, is twelve miles west by north of Llanvyllin, and nearly the same distance north from Llanvair Caereineon. The church, which is dedicated to Saint John the Baptist, and which formerly belonged to the Knights Hospitallers, is situate between mountains near the river Vyrnwy, in the most retired part of the county, and nearly at its northern extremity. This parish derives its name, according to tradition, from a giant called Wddyn, or Owddin, or Wothin, who was born here. There is a place on the hills called Gwely Wddin, "Wothin's Bed," at which place, according to an idea entertained by the country people, great treasures are concealed, but that every attempt to discover them are said to have been frustrated by tremendous storms of hail and thunder. Others, however, with more reason, say that this Wddyn or Owddin was an anchorite, and his cell in the rocks is still called Gwely, or "the Bed." His path, when he paid his visit to his neighbouring saint Monacella, at Pen-Nant-Melangell, being divided only by a mountain five miles over, is still traced and called by his name. If Owddyn was contemporary with Monacella, he must have lived in the seventh century. The superstitious tradition that vast treasures are concealed about this hermit's cell caused Hennings, a German, who superintended Lord Powis's mines at Llangynog, and who had an annual allowance of £100 to make new trials for ores, to expend his last £100 at the bed of Owddyn, but, as might have been expected, without any success. The following note was taken from a MS. belonging to the Right Reverend J. Griffith, D. D. Bishop of St. Asaph in 1660:—"Some part of this parish, viz. Tre'r Llanelid, &c. belongs to the Society of Saint John of Jerusalem, and was of late part of the estate of Edward Lord Herbert of Chirbury, now in jointure to his widow, the Countess Dowager Inchiquin, who allows ten pounds for serving the cure; the reversion belongs to Francis Herbert, Esquire." The townships of Rhiwargor and Marchnant Ucha, though in this parish, belong to the rectory

rectory of Llanrhaiadr-yn-Mochnant. A quarry of excellent blue slates has lately been discovered, and is now worked with great success, at a place called Gallt Forgan, in this parish.

Hirnant ("the extensive Dingle") hath its church dedicated to St. Illog. The village is six miles north-west of Llanvyllin. There is a tumulus on the summit of an eminence called Carnedd Illog, supposed to have been placed there in honour of the titular saint; here is also a well, called Ffynnon Illog, which is much resorted to for its mineral powers, but it is doubtful whether it has ever been of real efficacy in any disorder. There are two intrenchments on opposite hills on the borders of this parish, one on the northern side bordering on Pennant parish, the other on the southern side bordering on Llanrhaiadr parish, of about four hundred yards in length, but not, as they usually are in this country, of a circular form: the northern is not nearly so visible as that to the south, which is called Clawdd Mawr, and which is now about three yards high. The time or cause of their erection does not appear to have been ascertained: they are about two miles distant.

Pennant Melangell hath its church dedicated to Saint Monacella, or Melangell. The village is situated in a hollow between mountains, and is about 13 miles south-east of Bala and ten north-west of Llanfyllin. The river Tanad rises in this parish, and falls into the Vyrnwy, near Llanymynech, on the confines of Salop. The legend of Monacella, or Melangell, the female patron saint, is rudely sculptured in the gallery of the church; and several of her relics are still shewn to the credulous who happen to visit this sequestered spot. The cell of Diva Monacella is in a rock near the church. The history of Melangell is thus related by Mr. Pennant:—"According to the legend, she was the daughter of an Irish monarch, who had determined to marry her to a nobleman of his court; but the princess having vowed celibacy, fled from her father's dominions, and took refuge in this place, where she lived fifteen years without seeing the face of man. Brochwel Yscythrog, Prince of Powys, being one day a hare-hunting, pursued his game till he came to a great thicket, when he was amazed to find a virgin of surprising beauty engaged in deep devotion, with the hare he had been pursuing under her robe, boldly facing the dogs, who had retired to a distance, and were howling, notwithstanding all the efforts of the sportsmen to make them seize their prey; and, wonderful to relate, when the huntsman blew his horn, it stuck to his lips. Brochwel heard her story, and gave to God and her a parcel of lands to be a sanctuary to all that fled there. He desired her to found an abbey on the spot: she did so, and died abbess, in a good old age. She was buried in the neighbouring church, called Pennant, and from her distinguished by the addition of Melangell. Her tomb was in a little chapel or oratory adjoining to the church, and now used as a vestry-room. This

This room is still called Cell-y-Bedd, "the cell of the grave.' She thus became the patroness of hares, which from that circumstance were called 'Wyn Melangell' (Monacella's Lambs). So strong was the superstition about two centuries ago, that no person would kill a hare in the parish; and even later, when a hare was pursued by dogs, it was firmly believed that if any one cried 'God and Saint Monacella be with thee,' it was sure to escape.—In the church-yard is a stone, with the figure of an armed man: it once covered the remains of the eldest son of Owain Gwynedd, viz. Iorwerth Drwyndwn, or Edward with the broken Nose, who was set aside and prevented from succeeding to the throne on account of this blemish. He fled hither from the cruelty of his brother Davydd ap Owain Gwynedd, this place being at that time one of the most celebrated sanctuaries in Wales. On his shield is inscribed "Hic jacet Etward." Tradition says he was killed not far from hence, at a place called Bwlch Croes Iorwerth. This valley is extremely picturesque, being inclosed by hills on all sides, except at its entrance. The upper end is bounded by two vast precipices, down which at times fall two great cataracts; and between them juts the great and rude promontory of Moel Ddû Mawr, "the great round Black Mountain," which also divides the precipices into equal parts. Pennant means "the upper end of the dingle."

Llanvihangel yn Gwynva, otherwise Llanvihangel y Gwynt.—The church is dedicated to Saint Michael: the village is about four miles south-west of Llanfyllin. Llwydiarth, a large old house, seated on a hilly, naked country, is in this parish: it was at one time the property of the Vaughans, some of whom were representatives in parliament for the county; from them it came by marriage into the possession of Sir W. W. Wynn. This parish is extremely hilly and mountainous. It is called Llanvihangel y Gwynt, or "The Stormy," to distinguish it from Llanvihangel Ynghentyn, the Welsh name for Alberbury, on the confines of the county of Salop.

Llanwyddelan is four miles south of Llanvair and six north of Newtown. The church is dedicated to Gwyddelan, or Gwendolina, a saint of whom little is known. This parish exhibits an undulated surface. The Roman road from Chester to Caersws is supposed to have gone through the western extremity of this parish; it entered through the pass of Bwlch Cae Haidd, crossed the two Rhiws, and through the parishes of Llanllugan, Llanfair, Llanerfyl, Llanfihangel, and Llanfyllin, to the vale of Mochnant, where Sir Richard Colt Hoare, in his edition of Giraldus, has placed the long-lost Mediolanum. The appendages of the Roman road in this parish are,—first, Adfa, or the place of rendezvous for the British freebooters to assemble to attack the passing Roman caravans; secondly, two exploratory posts, one at Pen y Gaer, an intrenched encampment, and the other at Luest Cerrig, or Carneddau, one on each side of the

Roman

Roman road, and both of them in view of the passes, Bwlch Cae Haidd and Cefn Côch; and when the caravans appeared in either of the passes, the usual signal was given, and the two exploratory companies hastened to meet at Adfa to prepare for the attack.

Manavon, or Man-afon, "a place near the river."—The church is dedicated to Saint Michael. This parish is in most places very mountainous and unfit for cultivation, and the climate is very cold. In the hamlet of Dol-Gynfelyn were lately the ruins of a small chapel-of-ease, which is deemed a reason why the inhabitants thereof have no seats in the church of Manafon. The Rev. Walter Davies is Rector of this parish: he is a gentleman who has a just claim to the gratitude of his countrymen, for having devoted the greater part of his time and talents in useful researches to elucidate the history of his native country, and for the manner in which he has distinguished himself as a bard, historian, and antiquary.

Tregynon (Cynan's Town) is situate on the high road from Newtown to Llanfair, at an equal distance from both: it is called, in the Myvyrian Archaiology, Llandregynon. The church is said to be dedicated to Knonkell, a saint not noticed in the British catalogue, probably Congcen or Cyngen is intended. The church is of modern date, well pewed, and far surpassing in neatness many in Wales. In the church yard lie the remains of Arthur Blayney, of Gregynog, Esq. and by his side his faithful agent and servant, Thomas Colley, Esq.

Llanvechan, or Llan Fechan ("the Small Church"), or Llan yn Mechain ("the Church or Village in the District of Mechain").—The church is dedicated to Garmon, or Germain, one of the most distinguished of the British saints. The village is situated in the centre of a beautiful valley, of a circular form, which is about three miles in diameter, divided by the river Cain, whence Mechain, or Mach Cain, *i. e.* "the Tract of Cain." The well of the patron saint, called Ffynnon Armon, is near the church, and lately the veneration of its water was such, that the parish clerk always supplied the church font with it for baptisms. Bryn Gwyn, formerly a seat of the Kynaston family, afterwards of that of Mostyn, now of Martin Williams, Esq.; Bodynfol, a seat formerly of the Trevor family, now of R. M. B. Maurice, Esq.; and Bron Gain, a seat formerly of the ancient family of Griffith; were all in this parish. There are several British encampments in the neighbourhood, particularly at Moeldinam, which Mr. Edward Lhuyd, by the similarity of the name, would have to be the Roman Mediolanum. The village is about nine miles north of Welsh Pool.

Llansantffraid.—The church, dedicated to St. Fraid (in English St. Bride or St. Bridget), is situate on an eminence commanding a beautiful view of the vale beneath, through which runs the river Virniew. A tract in this parish goes by the name of Gwinllan, or "the Vineyard." If the Romans attempted the culture of the vine here,

death he was brought by Thomas Earl of Arundel to Westminster; where he slept away most of his time, and is thus characterised by an eye witness:

> From head to heel his body had all over
> A quickset, thickset, nat'ral hairy cover.

Change of air and diet, better in itself but worse for him, with the trouble of many visitants, are conceived to have accelerated his death, which happened at Westminster, November 15th, 1632, aged one hundred and fifty-two years.

In the year 1806, His late Most Gracious Majesty King George the Fourth (when Prince of Wales) came to Loton Park, on a visit to Sir Robert Leighton, from whence he walked into the Principality, the distance of about half a mile, to an oak tree on the road side, where he plucked a branch from the same, placed it in his hat, and then returned; on which occasion he was greeted by an immense number of truly-loyal Welshmen, proud to see their Prince among them. The tree is now enclosed with a handsome railing, and called "the Prince's Tree;" and a brass plate is fixed thereon, with a suitable inscription, commemorating the event.

Near this place, at the foot of the Breiddin Hills, is the chapel of Cruggin (Criggion), a modern brick building, situate on the banks of the Severn.

The remaining parishes in this county are Aber-havesp, "the mouth of the river Havesp," where it discharges itself into the Severn: the church is dedicated to Saint Cynog, who suffered martyrdom about the end of the fifth century.—Trefeglwys, "the Church Town," hath its church dedicated to Saint Michael. It is situated on the river Trannon, about eight miles west of Newtown, and five north of Llanidloes.—Penstrywed or Penystrywad (Street, Strata), *i. e.* "the head, top, or end of the paved road," leading to Caersws. The church is dedicated to St. Gwrgi, or Gwrci.

The following bards and other eminent persons were natives of or residents in Montgomeryshire:—Owain Cyveiliog, 1160; Sippyn Cyveiliog, 1400; Rhys Carno, 1480; Sion Ceri, 1520; Hugh Arwystl, 1550; Robert Morgan, Bishop of Bangor, 1666; Rev. Richard Williams, Vicar of Machynlleth; Thomas Price, of Llanfyllin, antiquary; Sampson Lloyd, of Dolobran; Grono ap Heilyn; Rowland Heilyn, Sheriff of London, died 1634; Dr. Peter Heilyn, nephew to Rowland, and an author, 1662; Davydd Llwyd ap Llewelyn ap Gruffydd, poet and seer; Rev. Dr. Davies, Head-Master of Macclesfield Grammar School; Howel Swrdwal, an excellent bard, Minister of Machynlleth about 1450; George Griffith, D.D. Bishop of Bangor; Lord Herbert of Chirbury, historian; George Herbert, his son; Sir John Pryce, Baronet, a poet; Rev. Thomas Jones, Lecturer and Head Tutor at Trinity College, Cambridge; Mr. William Jones, of Llangadfan, historian; Rev. John Jenkins, Vicar of Kerry.

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the king, and promises to deliver up Gruffydd ap Rhys, 134. Dies, 147. His issue, ib.
Gruffydd, the son of Rhys ap Tudor, lays claim to South Wales, 134. Flies to North Wales, ib. Wished with his brother Howel to withdraw into South Wales, 134. Forced to bid open defiance to the King of England, 135. The Flemings and Welsh lords join together to oppose him, ib. He takes Caermarthen, 136. Invited to the government of Caerdiganshire, ib. Succeeds, 137. Wars at Aberystwith, 138. Insidiously dispossessed of his estate, 143. Dies, 147.
Gruffydd, son to Lord Rhys, succeeded his father, 195. Plagued with his brother Maelgon, 196. A hopeful prince; dies, 200.
Gruffydd ap Conan ap Owen Gwynedd buried in a monk's cowl; the superstition of it, 199.
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Gruffydd Llwyd, knighted by King Edward the First, rebels, 274. Treats with Sir Robert Bruce for succour against the English, ib. Overruns North Wales and the Marches, and is taken prisoner, ib.
Gurmundus, a Norwegian, from Ireland invades Britain, 6.
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Harold succeeds Canute his father in England, 69. Dies, and is succeeded by Hardicanute his brother, 71.
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Henry the First: his partiality in favour of the Normans, 121. Makes his brother Robert prisoner, and puts out his eyes, ib. Kind to Cadwgan, the father of Owen, 125. Invades Wales with three armies, 132. Overcomes the French king, 141. Lost his children at sea, and marries, ib. Invades Wales, ib. In danger, 142. Agrees with Meredith ap Blethyn and returns, ib. His death and successor, 145.
Henry the Second sends the Flemings into West Wales, 151. Invited to the conquest of Wales, ib. Repulsed and in danger of his life, 160. Concludes a peace with Prince Owen, 161. Quarrels and concludes a peace with France, 171. Invades Wales, and brings Prince Rhys to do him homage, 172. Invades Wales again with a most potent army, 173. Returns without any thing memorable, and in revenge puts out the eyes of the hostages, 174. Makes a third expedition into Wales to as little purpose, 174. Passes through Wales, receiving homage of Prince Rhys, in his way to the conquest of Ireland, 180. Returns through Wales, and inclined to leave it in a peaceable condition, 182. Engaged in a civil war against his son Henry, 183. Makes a peace with France, and his children forced to submit, 184. Dies, 189.
Henry the Third, King of England, invades Wales, and is worsted, 223. Invades Wales again, 226. Makes John of Monmouth his general against the Welsh, but with ill success, 228. Laments the death of the Earl of Pembroke, 229. Invades Wales, and makes Prince David submit, 234. Invades Wales, 236. Fights with the Welsh with no success, and invites the Irish into Anglesea, 237. Oppresses Wales, and returns dissatisfied, 237. Wastes the borders, 246. Requires a subsidy to subdue Wales, 247. Dies, 250.
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Henry the Sixth makes unmerciful laws against the Welsh, 281,
Henry Duke of York created Prince of Wales, 285.
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Henry the Eighth incorporates the Welsh with the English, 286.
Henry, eldest son of King James, created Prince of Wales, 288.
Howel Dda preferred to be prince of all Wales, 42. His laws, ib. Goes to Rome to have them confirmed, 43. His death and issue, 45.
Howel ap Ievaf expelled his uncle Iago, and took the government of Wales upon him, 50.

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